

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIX.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 7th February, at 47, West Parade, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, the wife of W. S. BORROWS, Douglas S. S. Co., of a daughter.

Born at Suifu, Szechuen, to the wife of the Rev. H. OLIN CADY, M.E. Mission, Chengtu, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 31st December, 1903, at All Souls', Langham Place, W., by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Southwark, assisted by the Rev. R. W. Carew Hunt, vicar of St. Giles', Reading, ARTHUR FRANCIS, second son of the late GEORGE NUNN THOMAS, of Landford, Wilts, and of Mrs. THOMAS, of Landford, to DORIS GRACE (DAISY), eldest daughter of WILLIAM RICHARD LOKLEY and Mrs. LOKLEY, of Sedgell, Reading, late of Hongkong.

On the 25th January, at Penang, AUGUST HUTTENBACH, to CLARA TREVILYAN, third daughter of the late Rev. NICHOLAS FRANK HILL, of Alban Court, Cheltenham, and of the late Mrs. HILL, of Streatham on Thames.

On the 9th February, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Shanghai, and afterwards at the Cathedral, GERSHOM STEWART, of Hongkong, to HENRIETTA ELLEN, daughter of Major W. H. GRESSON (late York and Lancaster Regiment), Fernleigh, Cheltenham.

On the 10th February, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, by the Rev. P. de Gabardi, Jose, second son of the late ANTONIO D S REMEDIOS of Hongkong, to MARIA LUIZA, eldest daughter of ANTONIO PAULO GUTERRES, of the Mercantile Marine Office, Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On the 1st February, at Kiukiang FREDERICK WILLIAM COLLINS, of the Chinese Customs Service, aged 41 years.

On the 2nd February, 1904, at his residence, 88, Broadway, Shanghai, FEODOR ROBERT ALEXIS DE VILLARD, of Strasbourg, aged 43 years.

On the 5th of February, 1904, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, MARGARET SELICK, the beloved wife of STEPHEN SELICK, aged 26 years.

On the 6th February, at 14, Fourth Avenue, Hove, Sir EDWARD ACKROYD, late Puisne Judge, Hongkong.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 15th ult. is expected to arrive per s.s. *Ballaarat* some time to-day, the 13th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

War between Japan and Russia broke out on the 8th inst. Telegrams, etc., relating to the war will be found on p. 125.

The Hongkong Post Office was notified by telegram from Shanghai on Thursday that no mails will be received via Siberia now, the line being closed to mails.

The Japanese and Russian Legations at Peking are receiving reinforcements. The Chinese Court is alarmed, and the Empress Dowager is thought to be meditating flight.

In spite of what some American journals have stated, both Mr. Goodnow, U. S. Consul-General at Shanghai, and Mr. Fowler, U. S. Consul at Chefoo, are returning to their respective posts. Mr. Goodnow should be in Shanghai some time in March.

It is stated, on what we are told is good authority, says the *Singapore Free Press*, that the British Government has bought up all the Welsh coal at Pulo Way, some 40,000 tons. We should hardly be inclined to accept this without ample confirmation.

R. Schwind, late assistant of the Russo-Chinese Bank at Shanghai, who was recently arrested on a charge of embezzlement and lodged in the British Consular gaol, Shanghai, escaped on the 10th inst., an outsider having cut the window bars with a file.

The Yokohama reception of the foreign officers and men manning the cruisers *Nisshin* and *Kasuga* is likely to be a very elaborate affair. The Committee having charge of the arrangements for the reception of the crews voted a sum of 7,000 yen for expenses.

Sixto Lopez, who left Hongkong last week on the *Shawmut* for Manila, was not allowed to land there on arrival, as he refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and was ordered again to be deported. Lopez was first deported in 1892 by Spain.

45 of the constabulary and garrison at Vigan, Ilocos province, Luzon, P. I., have seized the barracks, liberated the prisoners, and escaped southward with 55 rifles and plenty of ammunition. They are cutting the telegraph-wires and gathering recruits. Governor Wright has despatched a battalion of the 11th Cavalry and three companies of scouts and constabulary. Swift punishment is expected.

It is stated that the Korean Government's intention of proclaiming neutrality in event of a Russo-Japanese war was kept secret from all the Powers—except such as were taken into official confidence—and that with the object of preserving secrecy until the end, a Korean official was despatched to Chefoo for the purpose of forwarding the intimation through the French Consul there, who is also Korean Consul.

3,000 Japanese from Vladivostock reached Tsuruga on the 7th inst. The Japanese Consul at Newchwang has been ordered to proceed to Tientsin; he has instructed all Japanese to quit Manchuria and Port Arthur.

A rumour was current last month that a French naval division consisting of the cruisers *Kleber*, *Desaix*, and *Amiral Aube*, belonging to the Northern Squadron, then proceeding to Toulon, might on arriving there, receive orders to proceed to the Far East. In that case, the battleship *Suffren* was to join the division. The *Sully* had already received orders to join the squadron in China. The following Italian warships received orders last month to leave for the Far East:—The *Marco Polo* from Naples, the *Dogali* from Venice, and the *Umbria* from Spezia. Four others, namely, the *Voltorno*, *Galileo*, *Colombo*, and *Staffetta*, have been detached from the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, and are concentrated in the Gulf of Aden awaiting orders. The *Marco Polo* takes out Admiral Delibero, who will command the Italian Squadron in the Far East.

The news of Sir Edward James Ackroyd's decease, which occurred at home on the 7th instant, was received with great regret in Hongkong, where he was for many years a prominent figure and where he is still well remembered. Sir E. J. Ackroyd was admitted a barrister to the Middle Temple in 1872 after holding a clerical post in the Registry of the Supreme Court of Mauritius. He obtained an exhibition from the Council of Legal Education there. In 1881 he was appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. From 1886 to 1888 he was Acting Attorney-General here, and again in 1890. In 1891 he was Acting Chief Justice, a post which he held again in 1894. In 1892 and for the next three years he was Puisne Judge. He left Hongkong in 1898 and settled down in England. During his years he was on a commission appointed to revise the laws and ordinances of the Colony. He was created a knight in 1898. We heard recently from a private source that he intended to revisit Hongkong shortly. Now unhappily that intention is frustrated.

The following news has been published re Tibet:—A Russian memorandum dated 2nd February, 1903, threatened steps to protect Russian interests in consequence of the British action in Tibet. Lord Lansdowne in reply on the 18th February, 1903, informed Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, in London, that if there was any display of Russian activity, Great Britain would be obliged to reply by a display of activity exceeding that of Russia. Some weeks later, Count Benckendorff submitted a statement of Russian views, declaring that any disturbance of the *status quo* in Tibet would compel Russia to safeguard her interests elsewhere in Asia. Lord Lansdowne replied that Great Britain insisted on Tibet fulfilling her treaty obligations. Later, when the Mission advanced, Count Benckendorff made further earnest representations, to which Lord Lansdowne replied that "it was strange beyond measure that these protests should be made by a Power which all over the world never hesitated to encroach on its neighbours. If the Russian Government had a right to complain of Great Britain advancing in Tibet, what kind of language would Great Britain not be entitled to use concerning Russian encroachments in Manchuria, Turkestan, and Persia?"

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

(Daily Press, 9th February)

At last, without a shadow of doubt, war between Japan and Russia is an accomplished fact. We were able to publish the first news of this at 9.30 o'clock yesterday morning, on the authority of a telegram received that morning from our London correspondent, simply announcing a declaration of war. This news was amply supported in several quarters during the fore-noon, and lastly by our Kobe despatch. We publish in another column some of the confirmatory details obtained yesterday. As early as Sunday rumours were abroad in the Colony that the Japanese Minister had been recalled from St. Petersburg, an act equivalent in the present circumstances to a declaration of war; but they could be traced to no definite source and were therefore looked on as more than dubious. It now appears that the local agents of a certain Japanese firm did receive on Sunday a telegram to that effect. After such a step war could be but a matter of hours, and there is no doubt that Russia will make the most of Japan's act in taking the first step. As we have said before, however, Russia has endeavoured for long to goad Japan into such a course, and the moral responsibility most certainly lies with Russia. Japan has been perfectly straightforward and has delayed action far beyond the expectation of her hostile critics. Had she been animated by the "chauvinistic" spirit attributed to her by the Russian Press and the pro-Russian sympathisers in Europe, war must have commenced at least a week ago, probably much earlier. On or before the 27th January the Japanese Government intimated to Baron ROSEN at Tokyo that an early answer to its Note of the previous week was desired. Continuing its dishonest policy, the Russian Government held back the reply, while causing the report to be circulated in Europe and elsewhere that its tone would be conciliatory and conducive to peace. Evidently nothing would please it better than that Japan should go on negotiating further. But Japan was not blind. Having from the beginning stated the irreducible minimum asked for by her and seeing that Russia made no real concession during the whole course of diplomatic dealings, she waited for the end of last week and then, after a momentous conference on the 4th instant, decided on the action which she has now taken. It appears that the actual delivery of the Russian Note was not awaited. It reached Admiral ALEXIEFF on the 4th instant, and if approved by him, was to be forwarded to Japan, reaching Tokyo yesterday at the latest. But it was reported last week—on the authority of one paper only, the London *Daily Graphic*, it is true—that the contents of the Note were known and telegraphed to Tokyo by the Japanese Minister at Tokyo. In any case, it was practically certain to be evasive and dilatory as before, and, while courteous in wording, insulting in its real purport, which was practically to ignore Japan's right to a voice in international politics. The result is the only one possible—War. Russia has really asked for war, and she has got it. She may have believed that she could frighten Japan, and that so actual conflict might be avoided. It hardly seems likely, however, that she thought so. It is more probable that she despises the Japanese and has embarked on the struggle with confidence in her ultimate success. Time will show whether she is justified. We believe not.

From the independent (and inhuman) standpoint of the naval and military critic, the coming war must be one of intense interest. As far as the warships are concerned, this conflict is the first in which two naval forces meet on equal terms as regards up-to-date equipment and modern resources. The best of guns and best of armour will be found on both sides. This was not so in the China-Japan or Spanish-American war. About the men behind the guns we have yet to learn much. British and other naval critics have expressed themselves in high terms of the Japanese sailor. The Russian seaman too has received eulogies, more especially from Continental writers. The test of war must settle the question of relative merit. As for the military forces, the war cannot at first affect them so much. Both armies have proved their value as fighting-machines. The disparity in numbers is enormous, but numbers cannot be utilised without many accessory circumstances. The lesson of South Africa taught that, if teaching was needed. Japan, even though she wins at sea—and that means that she has the complete control in Northern waters—will not assuredly begin a vast land campaign to drive Russia out of Manchuria. That would be madness. That she will occupy Korea is certain, if she is successful at sea. She has no doubt commenced that part of her campaign already, for at the end of January there was on the island of Tsushima, half-way between Kiushiu and Korea, a large force of Japanese troops, possibly the bulk of Japan's sixty chartered transports, and probably the Japanese squadron or part of it, at least. The exact details were not of course known owing to the telegraphic censorship, but it was known that the prices of food on Tsushima had risen rapidly in a short time. The reports of actual landing of Japanese troops in Korea at the end of January or beginning of February were not believed by the more weighty Anglo-Japanese newspapers. That they could land at Fusan in a few hours was, however, recognised. There can be at the present moment no Russian warships cruising about. The attempt to leave Port Arthur last week failed; a similar attempt from Vladivostok had been previously defeated, although no declared state of war existed, by the appearance of a Japanese squadron. Will another essay be made now? If so, a naval engagement is inevitable. Otherwise the news we may expect to hear first will concern Japanese movements in Korea or Russian in Manchuria. The possibility of Chili being affected also is obviously contemplated. It is not for nothing that the *Borneo* yesterday took up 71 of the rank-and-file of the Sherwood Foresters bound for Tientsin. It seems more than probable too that the Peking garrison will be strengthened, even if only because of the danger of the Peking populace being seriously agitated by the war movements in the neighbouring province. Northern news indicates that China strongly suspects a Russian attempt on Peking. The *Times* correspondent has warned us that Russia is egging on China to throw in her lot with Japan, so as to give Russian troops an excuse for advancing over the Manchurian border. The position of the Legations looks precarious in any event. It would suit Russia's book only too well to be able to pose as their rescuer. Her impudent boast of being a champion of civilisation would echo more loudly than ever if she could stir the worse elements in China to attack the Europeans in Peking, in supposed support of Japan against Russia. One side of the campaign we may be quite sure that Russia

will not neglect, and that is the campaign of lies. Happily her character is too well known to deceive any but those who wish to be deceived.

(Daily Press, 10th February.)

The Colony has not been lacking in rumours during the past twenty-four hours with regard to the war between Japan and Russia. The sum total of these, however, amounts to little more than that hostilities have actually commenced, following on the withdrawal of the Japanese Minister from St. Petersburg and the Russian Minister and Consuls from Japan. Our Shanghai correspondent telegraphs the report that the Russian mail steamer *Mongolia*, belonging to the Chinese Eastern Railway Company, which left Shanghai for Dalny on Sunday, has been captured by the Japanese. This vessel is one of two fast steamers on the run between Shanghai and Dalny in connection with the Trans-Siberian line; the sister-ship *Manchuria* has been in dock in Nagasaki recently; whether she too is now in Japanese hands is unknown. This seizure is undoubtedly an act of war, and is a sign, moreover, of the activity of the Japanese fleet. Various other sensational reports current yesterday seem quite without foundation.

The news from London, through REUTER'S Agency, shows that Russia has, as we anticipated yesterday, made a point of Japan not awaiting the arrival of her Note—after an interval of twenty-two days!—and has claimed that such procedure throws on Japan "the whole responsibility for the consequences which may arise from a rupture of diplomatic relations." No one will pay any attention to this statement outside Russia. It is of a piece with the whole dishonest line of diplomacy adopted by Russia during the recent negotiations, which is so well illustrated as late as in that authoritative statement from St. Petersburg quoted in REUTER'S despatch of the 7th instant, wherein it is asserted that the Russian Government has gone as far as it possibly can to meet Japan's wishes, and that if Japan is animated by the same peaceful sentiments as Russia she will receive fresh proposals in a manner permitting of an eventual accord. Such an impudent disregard of truth, we venture to say, has never been witnessed even in the imaginative annals of Russian foreign politics. But what are we to make of the Tsar's journey to submit his cause and the Russian Empire's fate before the altar of the Troitzko monastery, as his fathers have done in the past before drawing the sword? Nothing more than that the Tsar is now a complete puppet in the hands of the war party. Never anything but a weak man, NICHOLAS II. may at least be credited with being sincere; but that he is both superstitious and readily gulled has been obvious all through his reign. His love of peace has been a stock remark of politicians; yet the influence it has had on the conduct of Russia is infinitesimal. The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* recently had a very just criticism on this subject. Remarking that the continuance of peace, in spite of the critical state of affairs, is often ascribed almost exclusively to the Tsar's love of peace, he says:—"My own information confirms the reports recently current that it would be a mistake to give that factor, though it undoubtedly exists, an exaggerated importance. The Tsar's will has proved powerless to improve the interior administration of Russia. It is not necessary to recall the deplorable deeds of tyranny which have been committed in the name

"of NICHOLAS II. When it is remembered "too by what means Prince BISMARCK influenced the mind of his master in view "of reconciling him to the idea of war with "France it will be understood that similar "and even less scrupulous means are likely "to be employed with the Tsar to convince "him of the necessity of war with Japan. "In any case, while taking into due account "what is known of the character of the "Russian Emperor, it would not be safe to "found all hope for peace on the personal "disposition of the promoter of the Hague "Conference." Now we see this passionate advocate of peace proceeding to the altar to submit his cause—that of Russia's insatiable aggression—and the fate of his despotic and tyrannous Empire to the Almighty before drawing the sword against the small nation which dares to stand up against his forces in the cause of civilisation. It is truly an unholy farce. But the poor dupe of his unscrupulous Ministers cannot be blamed except for his blindness. The Ministers in question, however, are not blind.

(Daily Press, 11th February.)

Hongkong certainly had no reason to complain of the amount of war news received in the Colony yesterday; and, as confirmation of the main details came from several sources, there can be no doubt as to their authenticity. The course of events so far seems to have been this:—On the 5th instant the Japanese Minister at S. Petersburg intimated to Russia that, in consequence of the delay of Russia's reply for twenty-two days, while Russia was actively preparing for war, Japan refused to wait any longer. On the next day, or on the 7th, the Japanese Minister was withdrawn from S. Petersburg. On the 8th instant Baron ROSEN and the various Russian Consuls were recalled from Japan. On the night of the same day part of the Japanese fleet reached Port Arthur and the torpedo-boats attacked the Russian fleet, disabling two of the best battleships and a big cruiser. These vessels were all lying in the outer roads; Port Arthur harbour is said to be incapable of holding the whole Russian squadron there, possibly owing to the fact that the new breakwater has rendered it semi-icebound. Another attack on Port Arthur seems to have been delivered on the next morning, that of the 9th instant, but full particulars have not arrived yet. In the meantime—on the 8th instant—an engagement took place near Chemulpo. A Japanese squadron escorting transports with troops no doubt intended for Seoul, of which Chemulpo is the port, met with some Russian warships and engaged with them. The Russian gun vessel *Koreetz* was exploded by her crews, while the *Varyag*, a 6,500-ton cruiser, and a mail steamer with her were destroyed. Japan also captured about the same time the steamers *Mukden* and *Nonni*, Chinese Eastern Railway vessels which left Shanghai on the 1st and 4th instants respectively. These were taken off Fusan, the Korean port facing Tsushima, where a portion of the Japanese Army and the squadron were concentrated last week. The report about the *Mongolia's* capture, however, is not confirmed. Other reports, not substantiated by telegrams, were current yesterday, but up to the time of writing the above mentioned details alone seem to be trustworthy. Japan has, according to these latter, scored a highly important initial success. She has, in one way or another, put five Russian warships out of use, two of them permanently. With regard to the other three, if they are seriously damaged (and this we may surmise from the fact of Admiral ALEXIEFF's

telegram to the Tsar), it is little likely that they will be capable of repair during the war. The significance of this, in view of the previously small difference of strength between the Russian and Japanese fleets, is not easy to over-estimate. Japan has evidently laid her plans and carried them out with precision, and the heartiest congratulations will be offered to her by her sympathisers throughout the world. It is not, of course, to be expected that this vein of success will continue without a break. Russia's enormous resources must still come into play. Nevertheless, in naval matters it will be difficult, if not impossible, for Russia to counteract the effect of her recent defeat. She will doubtless attempt to restore the balance by vigorous action on land. Whether she can do so remains to be proved. The Siberian line has yet to be tested in time of stress. It will surprise few if it fails to serve Russia as well as she hopes. With Russia the main question in the immediate future will be one of connections. Reinforcements and commissariat alike depend on these being maintained. Japan will, we may be sure, spare no effort to break them, and with so brave and devoted a people all that is possible is within attainment.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

(Daily Press, 12th February.)

Perhaps the most important item of information which reached Hongkong yesterday was that portion of our London correspondent's telegram appearing in another column which referred to a circular Note addressed by the United States Government to the Powers. This Note, it seems, asked the Powers to join in a notification to the belligerent nations of Japan and Russia that they must respect the neutrality and integrity of China. This is the first decided step taken by the Washington Government since the state of affairs in the Far East grew really serious. It is true that, in pursuance of the terms of the recent commercial treaty between the United States and China, President ROOSEVELT has appointed representatives of the States at the new "open ports" of Moukden and Antung in Manchuria; but the effect of these appointments, as long as the *status quo* in Manchuria exists, is nugatory. If Manchuria is to remain Russian, the accrediting of United States representatives to China in Manchuria is valueless, and the clause of the treaty referring to the new ports is inoperative. Now, however, the United States have made a proposal to the European Powers that the two nations at war shall be warned to respect the neutrality and integrity of China. The effect of such a notification would be twofold. In the first place, during the war any violent act within China's territory on the part of either combatant would call for joint action on the part of the notifying Powers. That is to say, if Russia were to seize, say, the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang line or any points in Manchuria not on the Russian railway line, or were to advance into Chili; or if Japan were to land a force in Manchuria outside Russian-leased territory, the Powers would be called upon to interfere. Secondly, at the conclusion of the war the victorious party would have no right to gain any territorial increase at the expense of China. Thus, if Russia were to win, she could not claim full possession of Manchuria as part of the spoils, and in fact would have no further rights in the province than she already has by treaty. Nor could Japan, presuming she were desirous of doing so, claim special privileges in Manchuria, or elsewhere in

China, compared with the rest of the Powers. In short, whatever the result of the war, the alienation of any territory of China could in no way be involved in the final settlement between Japan and Russia.

That such an expression of determination on the part of the Powers would be eminently logical cannot be denied. Japan and Russia may be fighting for the hegemony of North-eastern Asia, but the interests of many other nations are involved in the future of North China, and neither the United States nor the leading European Powers are prepared to see their treaty rights extinguished by the victory of either disputant. If China does not become a party to the war, the Powers on their own behalf and hers should see that her territory is not treated as part of the reward of success. Of course, should China be drawn into the struggle, the question becomes intensely difficult; but we take it that the Powers, if they make such notification as the United States suggest, will also use their influence and possibly more than moral suasion to induce China to remain impartial. If a violation of China's territory should bring about her departure from an attitude of neutrality, that is a circumstance which would have to be taken into consideration, for it cannot be expected that she will be content to see troops marching over her borders and seizing her property without any attempt at resistance. The Chinese have been anticipating a Russian move against Peking on the slightest pretext and have massed some of their best troops on the Liao River. If a collision should be provoked by Russian aggression it would not be fair to charge the fault against China of departing from a neutral attitude.

An all-important question remains to be answered. What attitude are the other Powers likely to take up in view of the proposition of the United States? Great Britain will assuredly welcome the suggestion, and if France is, as we believe, sincere in her expressed desire to secure the peace of the Far East as far as possible she must also accede. Only the glamour of that most one-sided of alliances which France has with Russia can blind her to the propriety of such a step; and there are reasons to believe that this glamour is less dazzling than of old. It is difficult to make out Germany's attitude. It has been suspected that there must have been some sort of understanding between S. Petersburg and Berlin before Russia drove Japan into war. But we can see no indication that Germany is in any wise excited at the outbreak of trouble. She has not strengthened her fleet out here, nor is there any news by telegram of such intention. The most recent German newspapers have not been markedly pro-Russian in tone; in fact, some of them have recognised that Japan's claims are deserving of respect. On the whole it may be said that Russia's policy finds few friends in Europe at the present moment. Whether the Powers as a whole will carry their opinions to the logical conclusion and accept the proposal of the United States remains to be seen. Logic does not always appeal to the high diplomatists. A great opportunity will certainly be missed if Washington's overtures are neglected.

The following appointment was notified at the Admiralty last month:—Commander J. C. Watson to the *Tamar*, to date Jan. 4. The following appointments have been cancelled:—Midshipman.—G. F. Hole, to the *Blenheim*. Naval Cadets.—C. R. F. Perryman and J. E. B. Motley, to the *Blenheim*.

BRITAIN FRANCE AND THE WAR.

(Daily Press, 11th February.)

Though no news has yet come direct from London confirming the announcement we published yesterday from Singapore that an agreement has been reached between England and France to offer mediation between Russia and Japan after the first decisive engagement, there is good reason to believe that the statement will prove correct. Whether the belligerents will accept the offer is quite another matter. We presume the information must have reached Singapore from Indo-China, where the possibility of France being embroiled in the quarrel has been viewed with no little concern. This uneasiness has also been apparent in political circles in the French capital, and a month ago it was believed in "certain usually well-informed quarters" in Paris that Russia would not be unwilling for France to suggest international intervention in the quarrel. Having regard to the immense amount of French capital invested in Russia, it can readily be understood that this is a role which France would much prefer to play. France cannot afford to be drawn into a war with Japan. We notice that the *Liberté* a month ago gave expression to the fear that if France joined her ally in the fight, Japan would be almost certain to seize Indo-China "rather than run her head against a brick-wall by endeavouring to land troops in Manchuria." Japan of course could only do this with England's assistance. If France were actively supporting Russia, Japan by the terms of the alliance would receive the support of England, and a seizure of the French Colony would not, in that event, prove a difficult operation. But France does not appear to have entertained the idea of actively assisting Russia in a fight: as far as is known her efforts have been in the direction of securing a peaceful solution of the difficulties, and not until negotiations were broken off have we heard of any preparations on the part of France to strengthen her forces in the Orient. The statement that England and France have agreed to offer mediation after the first decisive engagement strikes us as being inherently probable, for England could not view with complacency the ruin of her ally any more than France could afford to watch Russia offering a protracted and costly resistance to a victorious Japan.

MUNICIPAL TRADING AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 8th February.)

An interesting discussion took place recently in Shanghai on the much-debated question of the proper limitations of municipal trading. The constitution of the Shanghai Municipality, developed as it was from slender conditions, has become crystallised on lines almost unique. The authority of the body of voters is direct and expressed in public concourse, where the citizens cast their votes, not as individuals, but according to the interests each represents. Thus an individual paying taxes on his residence in his own name would be entitled to one vote in respect thereto; but he may also as resident partner represent a mercantile firm, also paying taxes, in which case he has a vote in respect of this second interest; and furthermore he may be chairman or managing director of a local corporation or society, paying taxes as a separate institution, in which case as the representative of that interest he would be entitled to another vote. In appearance complicated, in practice the system is found to work without

difficulty or friction, and provides for each interest having its due share of representation. For the due carrying out of the practical business of the Municipality a council of nine is annually elected, who form the executive, but who have no power of themselves to initiate any business, form any regulation binding on the community, or levy any taxes, all these being the prerogative of the ratepayers in public meeting assembled, a prerogative jealously guarded. Now it so happened that in the year 1893 a private company formed for the purpose of electric lighting under a charter granted by the Municipality, found itself in difficulties, and offered its plant at what seemed at the time a reasonable rate to the community. A feeling of dissatisfaction with regard to the local Gas Company, which had up to that time had a practical monopoly of public lighting, prevailed generally throughout the community: a meeting of ratepayers was called, and after a prolonged discussion the Council was directed to purchase the undertaking, with all its rights and belongings. It was in the early days of electric lighting, and the plant soon showed itself inadequate; and here came in the inherent weakness of municipal administration. Rather than make a clean breast of it, and report to the ratepayers that the plant was antiquated and inadequate, the Council inaugurated a petty hand-to-mouth policy; new engines and machines were purchased from time to time, as chance offered or circumstances seemed to require, but no general plan was attempted towards a gradual renewal, nor did these odd purchases fit in with one another or in any way increase the utility of the entire. So little was this comprehended by the Council, that a few years ago in their annual report to the ratepayers, they actually took credit to themselves that they had twenty-six engines at their lighting station employed in the distribution of the lighting currents! The natural consequence of all this was on the one hand that the lighting was inefficient, and on the other that the indebtedness of the community on account of the Electric Lighting Department was found to be growing to dangerous proportions. At first, when the Council under instructions from the community took over the supply of electricity, there were no outside firms prepared to undertake the necessary work of wiring and providing fittings, and as a consequence the Council found it essential to import the required materials and fittings. Of late years, with the progress of electricity not only in the settlements, but throughout the Empire, a number of firms are prepared to undertake the business of supplying fittings of all sorts. The question has thus entered on a new phase, and becomes simply one of the advisability or the reverse of a municipality entering on a trading competition with its constituents, facilities being equal for either. Now it is quite true that at the moment many municipalities in Great Britain, and to a lesser extent elsewhere, do enter into many businesses hitherto not considered fit subjects for the investment of public funds of any description; and if we look into the private bills already intended to be presented to Parliament during the coming session we shall see that the tendency is growing. Thus we find the Leyton Urban Council, not content with applying for powers to construct tramways, proposing to deal in electric fittings, and to acquire, hold, and exercise patent rights. They also seek powers to provide recreation-grounds and refreshment-rooms; provide bands and organise games. Some of the Councils propose to go in for pension and retirement schemes which seem closely treading on

businesses hitherto considered as of right associated with insurance and other financial associations. The Buxton Urban Council would go beyond even this: they desire to purchase from the Duke of Devonshire the mineral-water baths and manage them as a municipal concern, whilst Ealing wishes to take up the business of electric power supply, provide an overhead system of electric tramways, restrict the overhead wires of other people, and supply electric fittings—in fact undertake on a wholesale scale the business of universal electric contractors.

These are only a few of the latest developments of this latest phase of municipal trading, but they are sufficient to show that the matter is rapidly becoming one of grave importance. It is undeniable that certain undertakings in connection with municipalities must as a choice of evils be undertaken by the municipality itself. It would be quite within the power of a corporation, for instance, to save a good deal of money by collecting its taxes by contract, but the objections to farming taxes are so strong—objections, be it remarked, founded on actual experience—that no one in modern times has been found bold enough to suggest such a method of collection. So the construction of roads and ways has also recommended itself as a fit undertaking to be carried out by municipalities. As a general rule again, the supply of water, involving considerable interference with outside interests, has been generally found easiest of accomplishment when undertaken by the municipality itself—and this the more so that the supply became not one for private adjustment, but compulsory, and so of necessity carried the light of taxation as contrasted with individual bargaining.

This last consideration, as to whether a supply is to be optional or enforced, though even it can hardly be carried to its extreme logical limits, affords in the minds of many the reasonable limit at which municipal trading should cease. Thus gas may fairly be held to rest on the borderland, so that the propriety of the manufacture and supply being undertaken by a municipality may well be left to decision in each individual case. So in the minds of most political economists there seem many and grave objections to the municipality undertaking the working of purely voluntary concerns, such as tramways, telephones, &c. Here the municipal venture comes into direct conflict with private enterprise. No one needs to ride on a tramway if otherwise inclined; and no one needs to send a telephonic message if he have any objection to do so. The usual explanation offered for the establishment of municipal enterprises of this nature is that taxation is relieved by the amount of the profit earned. Here again comes in the practical objection that municipal ventures of the sort, which as a matter of fact must fall into the hands of a paid official class, wanting as they do the great element of private success, immediate private interest, cannot be carried out so economically as private enterprises of similar nature. Recent disclosures of the methods of municipal finance certainly bear out this contention. Apart from, and beyond all this, there remains the question of how far a municipality is justified in competing with the earnings of its constituents; all are agreed that no municipality is concerned, or should be concerned, in advancing any private interest; sound finance also seemingly forbids a similar detrimental interference. As yet it may be that the loss to private interests is comparatively insignificant, but if municipal trad-

ng is to increase in future at anything like its present rate, the question must ere long become a pressing one.

These were some of the questions laid before the ratepayers of Shanghai last month. It was noteworthy that the meeting deprecated the allusions to private interests made by some of the speakers, and preferred discussing it on public grounds; on these, as for the most part composed of men interested in large fiscal operations, it gave no uncertain answer, and it remains perfectly well understood that the matter decided was not the mere supply of electric fittings, but that the voice of the meeting was condemnatory of municipal trading as a whole.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS

(Daily Press, 8th February.)

I see that a highly respectable and staid Manila paper has unkindly been accused of "yellow journalism" for suggesting that Hongkong is in a state of excitement just now over the expected war. It is true that the respectable journal in question represented Hongkong in a sort of panic, with even civilian stirred to their depths; but after all that is only our contemporary's way of saying that we are rather anxious here to know what is going to happen. There is no doubt, however, that both naval and military authorities are showing abnormal activity just now. The strengthening of the Colony's defences may of course only be in accordance with the previous decision of the military authorities, and it must be remembered that we have a "new broom" in our present G. O. C.; but certainly the process is being hastened, doubtless in connection with the crisis. (By the way I wish someone would invent a new word to take the place of "crisis"; it is almost as bad as the "war cloud"). As for the naval preparations, they have been going on before our eyes for weeks past. The outbreak of war, if it comes to-day—the last day of Russia's reply, according to Reuter—will not find us quite unready.

When I recalled the fact last week that nearly every Governor of the Colony has his memorial in the name of a street, the spirit moved me to add a few remarks on the room for improvement in our street nomenclature, but the exigencies of space obliged me to postpone those remarks. I had intended among other questions to ask why it was necessary to give to streets in Kowloon names which are already borne by streets in Hongkong. Des Vaux Road and Robinson Road, Kowloon, might with advantage be renamed, and an opportunity would thus be afforded of carrying out the suggestion made by "L" in a letter to the *Daily Press* last week, in which the writer lamented the absence of any memorial in our Colony, in the street nomenclature or otherwise, of the services rendered to Hongkong and to British interests generally in China by Sir Harry Parkes. I am thoroughly in accord with the sentiments expressed in the letter, for Sir Harry Parkes, above all servants of the Crown whose names are linked with affairs in China, deserves to be remembered. Everybody who is acquainted with the life-work of Sir Harry—and whoever is not, should read Mr. Lane Poole's *Life of Sir Harry Parkes*—will surely welcome the suggestion made in the leading article of Saturday's *Daily Press* that a statue be erected in his honour either in Hongkong or Kowloon by public subscription. No man more richly deserves that honour, and I trust that the proposal will meet with support from the British community.

In the interests of historical accuracy, may I venture to say, Mr. Editor, that the *Daily Press* leader of Saturday is not strictly correct in describing Parkes' connection with Kowloon. "L" was quite right in saying that Parkes was instrumental in getting a lease of the territory. He may also have subsequently been instrumental in getting the territory ceded in perpetuity to the British crown, but his biographer does not afford any information on the point. It may interest many readers if I briefly state how Parkes came to

be thus prominently associated with Kowloon. It was in 1860, when Sir Hercules Robinson was Governor of Hongkong and when military operations were in progress up North. This is what Parkes' biographer has to say on the subject:—

"The very first letter of this interesting correspondence [Parkes to his wife] notices an important step which was taken at Parkes' suggestion; this was the lease of the Kowloon peninsula opposite Hongkong by the British Government. Kowloon was the invariable refuge of the pirates, robbers, and criminals in general who infested the Bogue, and its possession was almost essential to Hongkong on military as well as civil grounds. Its sandy plain was also wanted immediately for quartering the troops which were destined for the attack on Peking; and nothing could be odder than that the local Chinese should lend it for such a purpose. It needed an intimate knowledge of their notions to conceive such a scheme, and the commanders from England would not have dreamt of it; but to Parkes it was the most natural and practicable thing in the world, and far preferable to exciting animosity by forcibly taking possession of the land. He was in consultation on 16th March [1860], he tells his wife, about the Kowloon project with the General and Sir Hercules Robinson. 'After hearing what I had to say, both Sir H. Robinson and Sir Hope Grant came round to my way of thinking as to the desirability of getting a lease of Kowloon, although they had already begun to land troops. Sir H. Robinson is all eagerness that it should be settled forthwith, and that I should get back to Canton to arrange it as speedily as possible.'"

In a subsequent letter Parkes mentions that he settled the matter at Canton much to the satisfaction of the General and that of Sir Hercules Robinson. The latter wrote to Parkes thanking him for "the very satisfactory arrangement you have succeeded in carrying out as to Kowloon." "We are now," added His Excellency, "in the best position we can be in, short of a cession, and in forwarding the official correspondence to the Duke of Newcastle I shall not fail to point out that we are indebted for this to the tact and skill with which you have conducted the negotiations." Yet neither Hongkong nor Kowloon possesses a memorial in any shape or form in honour of the man to whom we owe this debt. Parkes foresaw the eventual cession of the peninsula, for he wrote in one of his letters: "Had to draw up a deed of lease and a proclamation relative to Kowloon, and, in a word, to carry into execution the arrangement of yesterday. These matters occupied me the greater part of the day, but I was rewarded in the evening by signing, sealing, and delivering, I to Laou and Laou to me, the desired deed of lease, which settled the Kowloon question until the peninsula can be altogether ceded to us, which will be the next step, I doubt not." This prophecy came true in the following year, 1861.

It has been reported that Sir Matthew Nathan, our new Governor, will not reach us for another seven months—not until September next. Mr. May will therefore have quite an extended term of administration. Hongkong is glad to have so well tried an official at the head of its affairs.

I notice the A.D.C. has withdrawn the projected performance of *His Excellency* on the 17th inst., that day being Ash Wednesday. This graceful acceptance of the hint, of a correspondent, and the action upon it, will no doubt be appreciated by those most interested, and, if that be possible, render the Hongkong A.D.C. even more popular than ever.

Hongkong will have a good opportunity to-night of hearing some more about the Fiscal question, for Mr. Haskell is going to address the Odd Volumes on the subject, and a debate will follow. I shall be surprised if there is not a good attendance.

BANYAN.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS].

LONDON, 7th February.

It is announced that war has been declared between Russia and Japan.

KOBE, 8th February.

Negotiations between Japan and Russia have been broken off. The Russian Minister at Tokyo and the Russian Consuls in Japan are leaving for Russia.

SHANGHAI, 9th February.

Hostilities have commenced between Japan and Russia. It is reported that the Japanese have captured the Russian (Chinese Eastern Railway's) Mail Steamer *Mongolia*, which left Shanghai on Sunday.

SINGAPORE, 9th February.

It is reported that France and England have agreed, after a decisive engagement between the Japanese and Russians, to offer their mediation through the influence of the Tsar.

France has agreed that the Powers shall land troops in China, in event of necessity, to assure neutrality (on the part of China).

The *Patrie* (Paris) says that six French transports are ready to sail for Eastern waters.

KOBE, 9th February.

The Russian cruiser *Varyag* and the gunboat *Koreetz* have been captured by the Japanese off Chemulpo.

Two Russian steamers belonging to the Chinese Eastern Railway Co.—it is believed the *Nonni* and the *Mukden*—have been captured off Fusan and brought to Saseho.

LONDON, 9th February.

Viceroy Alexieff has telegraphed to the Tsar that the Japanese torpedo boats attacked Port Arthur at midnight on Monday. The battleships *Ratvizan* and *Tzarevitch* and the cruiser *Pallada* were all damaged.

SHANGHAI, 10th February.

The Russian gunboat *Koreetz*, which sank at Chemulpo, was self-exploded. The cruiser *Varyag* and the Chinese Eastern Railway Company's steamer *Sunaari* were destroyed after thirty-five minutes' fighting. The Japanese suffered no loss.

LONDON, 10th February.

The United States Government has addressed a Note to the Powers asking them to join in a notification to the belligerents to respect the neutrality and integrity of China.

LONDON, 10th February.

Seventeen Japanese vessels bombarded Port Arthur, but the damage done was slight. The Russian casualties were 10 killed and 56 wounded.

The *Poltava* (first-class battleship, 10,960 tons), the *Diana* (first-class cruiser, 6,630 tons), the *Askold* (first-class cruiser, 6,100 tons), the *Novik* (second-class cruiser, 3,200 tons), were damaged.

The Japanese have landed at Chemulpo. Two Russian cruisers surrendered.

On the morning of the 10th inst. the following telegrams were received by the Admiralty and signalled to the fleet in Hongkong:—

"A steamer which has arrived at Chefoo from Port Arthur reports that the Japanese fleet attacked the Russian war-ships at Port Arthur on the night of the 8th instant with the result that they torpedoed two Russian battleships and one Russian cruiser, which had to be run ashore.

"An engagement between the Russian and Japanese fleets took place on the morning of

the 9th instant, when four Russian war-ships were injured, but the Japanese war-ships received no injury.

"An hour's engagement between a Japanese escorting squadron and the Russian war-ships *Varyag* (1st-class cruiser), and *Koreetz* (gun-boat) took place off Chemulpo. The gun-boat *Koreetz* was sunk, and the cruiser *Varyag* took refuge at Chemulpo."

The local manager of the Yokohama Specie Bank kindly informed us on Wednesday evening that he had received the following telegram from the head office at Yokohama:—

"On the 8th inst. the Imperial Navy sunk one Russian cruiser and one gun-boat at Chemulpo; and on the same day sunk two battleships and beached one cruiser at outer port of Port Arthur. On the 9th naval fighting being continued."

Mr. Masaichi Noma, Consul for Japan, wrote to us on the morning of the 11th inst. to the following effect:—

"I beg to inform you that this morning I have received the telegram from our Government to the effect that war has been formally declared against Russia by His Imperial Japanese Majesty on the 10th February, 1904."

[In view of the statements made recently about the impossibility of having a state of war without a formal declaration having been made, it is interesting to refer to Marten's *Law of Nations* on this point. At p. 279 this authority says:—

"The universal law of nations acknowledges no general obligation of making a declaration of war to the enemy, previous to a commencement of hostilities. Many of the ancient nations looked on such a declaration as essential, and it was practised in Europe till the seventeenth century; but nowadays nations content themselves with publishing a declaration of war through their own dominions, and explaining their motives to other Powers in writing. Publishing of war in this manner is looked upon as so essential that nations have often demanded a restitution of everything taken from them by the enemy before such declaration. Sometimes, however, nations get rid of such demands by insisting that the war has been tacitly declared."

By kind permission of the Naval Authorities we were enabled to publish the following telegraphic news on the 11th inst.:—

"In the action outside Chemulpo the Japanese ships engaged were the *Asama*, *Chiyoda*, *Naniwa* and *Nitaka*. Both the Russian ships were badly damaged and were set on fire and blown up by their crews, who took refuge on board the French cruiser *Pascal*. The Japanese ships sustained no damage. The Russian steamer *Sungari* was burned in Chemulpo Harbour by the Russians."

Captain R. H. Keller, D.S.O., Lieutenant M. B. Webb, and 71 rank and file of the Sherwood Foresters, left Hongkong for Tientsin by the P. & O. s.s. *Borneo* on the 8th. Captain Keller vacates the position of adjutant of the battalion after acting as such for four years. H. M. ships *Centurion*, *Vengeance*, and *Albion* have left ostensibly for Mirs Bay; they will no doubt proceed north. It is also rumoured that a call may be made at Amoy. The *Cressy*, *Ocean*, *Fearless*, and *Thetis* are still in port.

The Douglas s.s. *Haimun* has been taken up by the Associated Press agency, and is bound for Shanghai; she left Hongkong on the 10th. We understand that her charterers intend her to run despatches, etc. The *Haimun* is a steel screw steamer of 1,311 tons register. She was built in 1896 by Messrs W. Hamilton & Co., Glasgow, by order of the Douglas Steam-Ship Company, Ltd., of Hongkong. Since her first arrival here she has been on the Foochow-Hongkong run, via the intermediate ports.

The officers and crew on board the Korean warship *Yobu* are not being paid any salary. The merchants have refused to supply provisions and coal, and the men are almost starving. The Korean Government asked the Daiichi Ginko to supply the ship with provisions, and five bags of rice were sent to the ship by the bank.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 11th inst. in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. A. W. Brevin, Registrar General; Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Fung Wa Chun; Colonel W. E. Webb, A.M.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn; Dr. W. W. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. B. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary) and Mr. J. H. Kemp (Assistant Secretary).

REPORT OF SANITARY SURVEYOR.

Mr. J. J. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, forwarded his annual report for the year 1903, as follows:—

New house-drains.—Plans have been deposited and passed by him during the year for the drainage of 263 houses. The plans of 713 houses were carried forward from 1902, making a total of 976 in hand during the year. The drainage of 415 houses has been completed and the plans for 350 have been cancelled, leaving 211 to carry forward to 1904.

Re-drainage and additions.—In addition to the above, plans for re-drainage of, or additions to, the drainage of 94 houses were carried forward from 1902, and new plans have been received for 260 houses, making a total of 354 for the year. Of these, 245 houses have been completed and 51 cancelled, leaving 58 to be carried forward to 1904.

Inspection of private house-drains.—The drains of 106 houses have been tested and reported on, in consequence of complaints having been received regarding them. Of this number, 56 required reconstructing, 28 amending and the remainder were found to be in order. Notices were served on the owners of the above 84 houses calling upon them to execute the necessary work. Of these 80 have been complied with and the remaining 4 are in hand. 31,790 houses have been visited by the Drainage Inspector, with the result that 1,878 drainage nuisances have been discovered. Notices have been served in each case on the owner or occupier, calling upon them to abate the nuisance. All of these have been complied with. 268 nuisances have been referred to the Medical Officer of Health and 343 to the Hon. Director of Public Works to be dealt with by them. 1705 choked drain traps on private property have been cleansed by the drainage foremen.

Water-closets and urinals.—During the past year, water-closets and urinals have been erected in the following buildings, by permission of the Board, and with the exception of those at the docks, have been connected with the public sewers: Stag Hotel, 150 Queen's Road Central, 6 water-closets, 6 urinals; "Club Germania," Kennedy Road, 6 do., 6 do.; Hongkong and Whampoa Dock, Hung Hom, 15 water-closets; I. L. 1623, Magazine Gap Road, 3 water-closets; 15, Connaught Road Central, 2 water-closets, 2 urinals; 12, Des Vœux Road Central, 1 water-closet. Total, 39 water-closets, 15 urinals.

New Buildings.—Certificates have been granted during the year under sections 84 of Ordinance 13 of 1901, for 47 houses, certifying that they have been built in accordance with the entire provision of that Ordinance. This is 491 less than were certified in 1902.

Cemeteries.—The whole of the bodies dead of plague during the year have been buried in Cheung Sha Wan Cemetery. There is room for about 40 bodies in the Kennedy Town Cemetery, but it is advisable to reserve that space for any emergency that may arise. Twenty-five terraces have been formed in Mount Davis Cemetery: viz. 12 in Section A, 6 in B and 7 in C.

Prosecutions.—The following is a return of the prosecutions instituted during the year:—

Offences.	Summons.	Convictions.	Penalties.	Remarks.
Drainage nuisances on private premises...	154	143	\$1,062	11 withdrawn
Failure to comply with order of magistrates 27	27	658	—	—
Contravention of Sec. 84 of Ord. 13 of 1901...	5	5	140	—
Contravention of Sec. 191 of Ord. 1 of 1903....	4	4	100	—
Contravention of the Drainage Bye Laws	5	5	45	—
	195	184	\$2,005	11

The PRESIDENT said that with reference to this report he had received from Mr. Rumjahn a letter enclosing a minute relating to the drainage of two blocks of houses, one in Caine Road and the other in Des Vœux Road, and also giving notice of certain questions. He would suggest that this minute be circulated and the questions could be answered at next meeting. This was agreed to.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT (Hon. W. Chatham), the report was adopted.

BYE-LAW.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, the draft of new Bye-laws proposed to be made under Section 16 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance, 1903, was approved, and it was agreed to recommend their approval by the Government.

BRIDGE AND STAIRCASE OVER MASON LANE.

An application was made for permission to erect a bridge and staircase over Mason Lane.

The PRESIDENT stated that it was necessary for this permission to be given by the Governor in Council.

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that the Board recommend this application to the Governor in Council for approval.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A BEACONSFIELD ARCADE OBSTRUCTION.

There was laid on the table an application for exemption from removing an iron roof in the backyard of 14, Beaconsfield Arcade.

The PRESIDENT stated that the tenant of No. 14 had received notice from the P.W.D. to remove an obstruction from the backyard—that was the open space just outside the Board's office. The Board had power now under Section 155, but it did not seem advisable that it should be allowed to remain because the M.O.H. reported that the obstruction blocked out the light from the houses, and the yard was filled with stoves and kitchen utensils. There was also a chimney which was a great nuisance not only to the residents in the Arcade but to people passing up Battery Path. He moved that the exemption be not granted.

The motion was agreed to.

"EXTERNAL AIR."

There was submitted an application relative to the question of "external air" in respect of Nos. 2 to 68, Bridges Street.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—"None of the yards in the existing Chinese tenement houses is 13 feet wide. I think the Board should recommend Government to exempt every house with a yard not under 8 feet wide and allow two cubicles to be erected on the upper floors of such a house as originally suggested by the sub-committee. If as minuted by the Assistant M.O.H., an 8 feet yard should not be reckoned as external air, the amendment Ordinance will practically inflict the same hardship as the original Ordinance."

The minute of the Assistant M.O.H. (Dr. Barnett) referred to above was as follows:—"I do not think a yard of 8 feet ought to be counted as external air. If the rear wall of the open space could be removed (why it was ever built I can't understand) the window in rear would open into external air."

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted:—"I know these houses very well. Besides the yard there is a backyard in the rear. When the plan of these houses was passed about two years ago a backyard was not then required. If the Board would not recommend this application, practically almost all houses built prior to the passing of Ordinance 1 of 1903 could not succeed in

getting exemption, for there are very few blocks of buildings that have a yard and a back lane. Besides, the provisions of the expression "external air" are not consistent with the requirements of modern sanitation. The result of the Insanitary Properties Commission was the enactment of Ordinance 36 of 1899. Owners of property were then induced to provide a back lane in lieu of a backyard; and Section 8, Sub-section A, of that Ordinance empowered the making of a back lane 6 feet wide in the place of a yard 8 feet wide, in order to encourage land-owners to provide a back lane alone for a block of buildings. In 1901 when the Government thought that the Insanitary Properties Ordinance was not drastic enough the Public Health Ordinance 13 of 1901 was enacted. The regulations about open spaces were copied verbatim from the Insanitary Properties Ordinance. By the passing of the existing Ordinances Nos. 1 of 1903 and 23 of 1903, back lanes which had been provided under such alluring circumstances as above described are now found to be practically useless; and, even when both back-yard and back lane have been provided, as instanced in this case, the open space in the rear is now found to be insufficient to meet new regulations. It can thus be imagined how owners of property have been dealt with during the past three years. I consider a great hardship and injustice have been done to investors of capital in landed property, which has the effect of driving a great deal of capital out of the Colony. All these changes in law have been brought about by Dr. Clark, our M.O.H., and the plan for this block of buildings, only completed a few months ago, must have been *visé* by him. The owner of this property, through no fault of his, will suffer a great injury if his application is refused, and the wall referred to by the Assistant M.O.H. has been built in full compliance with the law that has been repealed by the existing Ordinance.

After an examination of the plans had been made, it was agreed on the motion of the PRESIDENT to refer the matter to the D. P. W. for report.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, reported on his analyses for the month of January that he had found the water to be of excellent quality.

RAT RETURN.

During 1903 there were 88,862 rats killed in the Colony; of these 3476 were infected with plague. For the fortnight ended on 8th inst. 662 were destroyed; of which 21 were infected.

The PRESIDENT said the percentage of infected rats had gone up nearly double within the last two weeks.

CHINA NEW YEAR AND THE MARKET.

The PRESIDENT said that it was customary at the China New Year to keep the markets open all night. He moved that they be allowed to remain open on the nights of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next week. This was the recommendation of the C.V.S.

It was agreed to grant this permission.

There was no other important public business.

FISCAL DEBATE IN HONGKONG.

LECTURE AT THE CITY HALL.

Under the auspices of the Odd Volumes Society, Mr. Ernest D. Haskell delivered a lecture in the City Hall on the 8th inst. on "Fiscal Policy and Imperial Federation." Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., presided over a large attendance.

The CHAIRMAN in introducing the lecturer said it was clear from the numbers present that the importance of the subject of our fiscal policy to the commerce of Great Britain was fully recognised. He had much pleasure in introducing Mr. Haskell to the audience. (Applause.)

Mr. HASKELL said that the subject of his lecture was one which had been very much in the public mind of late, not only of Great Britain but of the Colonies and of the whole Empire. He referred to the great question of fiscal policy, the burning question of the hour. It was a question that affected the Empire very vitally. It was of vital importance because on the answer to that question depended the fate,

the ultimate destiny of the Empire. We had been content to slumber on in fancied security, and it had been left to Mr. Chamberlain to wake up the nation to the grave Imperial danger which confronted it in the pursuit of a policy which was no longer compatible with the changed conditions under which we lived. He did not for a moment advocate Protection against Free Trade. He did not say that Protection was better than Free Trade, that Protection brought with it prosperity and progress, and Free Trade ruin and decay. As an economical principle, as an economical doctrine, he thought Free Trade was to be preferred, but what he did say was that we must suit our policy to the times. If the times had changed and we found that our methods were no longer suitable, that in fact our policy was leading us into decay, then the time had come to change that policy. We were sacrificing a cause to a principle. In our rigid adherence to a shibboleth we were blinding ourselves to the ultimate issues. In the days when the anti-Corn Laws agitation was at its height, in the days when Cobden so effectively brought about the repeal of the Corn Laws, and instituted the policy which we were now pursuing and have pursued ever since, the condition of the world was vastly different, the circumstances by which we were surrounded were vastly different. Then we were the workshop of the world. Foreign countries then were not manufacturing countries, or if they were their manufactures were in their infancy. But behind the high tariff walls which they raised they gradually built up their industry, their manufactures improved and increased, until now their industries not only had a firm hold of their own markets and were keeping us out, but were invading ours as well. Free Trade is all very well, but it must be "Free" on both sides. Could we not the present arrangement by which Great Britain admits the exports of all countries free, while her own to foreign countries were taxed to such an extent as to become prohibitive, Free Trade? Was that Free Trade? Assuredly not. Under conditions such as these, then, such a policy was nothing short of suicidal, and he doubted very much whether Cobden, had he been alive to-day, would advocate the continuance of the present policy, in face of the changed conditions which surrounded us, because when he urged the nation to this step, when the rulers of the nation committed them to a Free Trade policy, they did so in the confident belief that foreign countries would very soon follow our policy; in fact they anticipated that our example would result in universal Free Trade; but unfortunately their anticipations were not justified. If Free Trade were universal—if other nations followed our example—it would be quite a different matter, but we knew it was not. There were three aspects, he thought, from which we might view the fiscal proposals of Mr. Chamberlain, firstly, the power it would give us to retaliate against foreign countries imposing hostile tariffs against us; secondly, the maintenance and expansion of Imperial trade, and so making the Empire self-supporting; and thirdly, as a basis of Imperial Federation. It was of this last aspect that he wished particularly to speak and to explain why he thought that such a change in our fiscal policy was not only desirable but absolutely essential for the union of the Empire and its existence. We prided ourselves on an united Empire, an Empire united by the bonds of kinship and loyalty and common sympathies, but did we ever realise how slender was the bond which united the Empire, slender because it was a sentimental, not a material bond, and however valuable it might be we must remember that it was liable to be snapped asunder any moment. He did not suggest that these ties were weak ones. On the contrary, they were of the strongest character, and no better illustration of that fact could be needed than the action of the Colonies in the late South African War. That war demonstrated to the world the practical value, the real strength and the might of the Empire. Those great Colonies, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the South African Colonies, sent forth their noblest and their best to uphold together with those from the mother country the glory and dignity of the Empire and to shed their blood for a cause which did not

directly concern them, but which the Empire had made its own. That was a glorious picture—those Colonies spontaneously and of their own accord rallying around the standard at a moment of danger and trouble; and what greater demonstration could we need but these? Yet it behoved us to look far ahead into the future, and there might come a time—he did not think it was likely, but it was within the bounds of possibility—of storm and stress, of anxiety and uncertainty, when the Colonies might feel that the bonds were irksome, or that a brighter prospect awaited them by an independent existence, or some stronger fascination might impel them to separation from the mother country or alliance with another State. Then it would be found that these bonds of sentiment would avail but little. We had in the possession of a world-wide Empire vast possibilities, and we must utilise them to their utmost. Now was the favourable time when we could do so. We must strike when the iron was hot; the opportunity might never occur again. Mr. Chamberlain's words in the first speech in which he referred to the fiscal question were:—"The Empire is in its infancy. Now is the time when we can mould that Empire, when we and those who live with us can mould its future destinies." If we want an united Empire, if we want Imperial Federation, we must have a system of preferential tariffs between Great Britain and the Colonies—a fiscal union between the different parts of the Empire. Imperial Federation cannot be complete unless based on fiscal union. That is the rock, the foundation on which must be laid the mighty superstructure of a vast consolidated Empire, self-supporting and all-sufficient. We might have an Imperial Council, a common legislature for the Empire, we might have a common system of Imperial defence, we might have a common Imperial exchequer; but unless and until we had a commercial union the federation of the Empire would not be complete—could not be complete without common commercial interest. Now let me review briefly the progress of British trade the last 30 years. In 1872 the trade of Great Britain, her exports, amounted to £257,000,000; in 1902 it was £283,000,000. That is an increase of 26 millions in 30 years, that is equal to about 10 per cent. You will perhaps say then, Why our trade has not declined. Yes, in point of figures it has not; but you must consider that while our trade has increased 10 per cent, during the same period the trade of the United States increased from 89 to 232 millions or 217 per cent., and the other protected countries too showing a large increase, our trade increased only 10 per cent, in spite of the fact that the exports from Great Britain to British possessions alone increased from 61 to 109 millions during that period, or 79 per cent. Our foreign trade had declined from 195 to 174,000,000. But I will not trouble you any more with figures; figures are wearisome things. Our Imperial trade has increased abundantly, and is capable of vast expansion, but it must be stimulated, fostered. A system of preferential tariffs between Great Britain and the Colonies would stimulate and extend Imperial trade, and would make the Empire self-supporting. It would increase the industries of the Colonies, as the Colonies were capable of supplying all the wants of Great Britain; and the mother country would depend more and more on the Colonies for supplies, instead of on foreign sources, and the Colonies would in turn take more and more of British goods and manufactures. They were told that though Great Britain might be willing to accord preferential advantages to the Colonies, the Colonies would not be ready to accord corresponding benefits to the mother country. Now he did not know whether that was true, but he did know that the action of the Colonies proved quite otherwise, and that if one read the speeches of great statesmen in these Colonies, men of responsible positions, in every one of those Colonies he thought they would find the same sentiments, the same readiness to co-operate, the same readiness to accord benefits to the mother country to the utmost of their power, for the maintenance and expansion of our Imperial trade. Canada already granted a substantial preference to the mother country of 33½ per cent., South Africa 25 per cent., New

Zealand, 10 per cent., and Australia was likely to follow, and they were prepared to go farther if Great Britain were willing to meet them with corresponding advantages. But this was exactly what Great Britain could not do, and what Mr. Chamberlain wanted Great Britain to be able to do. We could only say to our Colonies, "It is very good of you to give us a preference, which we accept with pleasure, but you must not expect anything from us in return, for, no matter how much you may do for us, we are very sorry we are not able to extend the same benefits to you, as our system will not allow it." The Colonies could not always give and not receive. Besides this, the Colonies, by giving a preference to the mother country, laid themselves open to the attacks of foreign countries, who resented this mark of favour, and the mother country could do nothing but look on. Was this in accord with the dignity of the Empire, or conducive to its consolidation? No, it was not; and our present system would only tend gradually to alienate the Colonies and lead to the disruption of the Empire. The builders of the Empire were increasing enormously, and we must draw the Empire closer together, so that the burden might fall equally on all. A policy of "splendid isolation" was no longer practicable for Great Britain. Her interests and her destinies were bound up with the Colonies, and the Colonies with the mother-land. In union lay the strength of the permanence of the Empire, and its union must be based on common commercial interests. What were the greatest interests of a nation? Trade undoubtedly, and the greatest interests of the Empire were our Imperial trade. In fostering, improving, and extending that trade the best interests of the Empire would be served. There were two roads before us, one leading to the gradual decline of our industries, and ultimate disintegration of the Empire, the other leading to a strong, united, prosperous Empire, self-supporting, self-relying. That was the road to which Mr. Chamberlain was pointing, and on which he wished to lead the nation. We stood at the parting of the ways. Mr. Chamberlain's policy was intended to consolidate the commercial interests of the Empire; in consolidating the commercial interests the foundation-stone would be laid for Imperial Federation, the best interests of the nation would be safeguarded, and in safeguarding the best interests of the nation would be secured the lasting union and permanence of the Empire. Mr. Haskell concluded by proposing the following resolutions:—(1) That the time has now arrived when, in view of the increasing restrictions on the importation of British goods into foreign countries, Great Britain should reconsider her present policy of free imports, (2) That Great Britain should enter into negotiations with the Colonies for the purpose of arranging, so far as possible, a preferential tariff between the mother country and the Colonies, and *vice versa*, with a view of promoting the closer union of the Empire and developing its combined resources."

Mr. W. D. GRAHAM said the only sound bit of doctrine he had read expounded by Mr. Chamberlain was in his speech at Liverpool, and had he made the disadvantages under which our shipping was placed the key-note of his agitation he should have been with him heart and soul, but shipping was entirely outside his scheme of tariff reform. There could not be a British subject living who did not sympathise in the alleged object of his campaign, which were in his own words (1) the maintenance and increase of the nation's strength and popularity of the United Kingdom, and (2) the creation of an Empire such as the world has never seen. But it was doubtful, to quote him again, whether it was "only by commercial union and reciprocal preference that you could lay the foundations of that federation of the Empire to which we all look forward as a brilliant possibility." To secure that he proposed a tax not exceeding 2/- per qr. on foreign corn except maize, a corresponding tax on flour, a substantial preference on colonial wines, and to take off three-quarters of the duty on tea and half the duty on sugar, cocoa, and coffee, and to put a duty of about 10 per cent. on manufactured articles. He estimated that the added taxes would increase the cost of living for our working

classes by 4d. a week for a labourer and 3d. a week for an artisan, while education would just about bring it back to the *status quo*. Mr. Chamberlain based his desire for protection on two allegations—(1) that it is not well with the trade of the country, and (2) that there is a possibility of our Colonial Empire being broken up unless we tax the people of Great Britain for the advantage of the Colonies. In support of the first allegation Mr. Chamberlain advanced the argument that the export trade of the country had been practically stagnant during the last 30 years, or rather that in 1872 it was 255 millions whereas in 1902 it had only risen to 278—an increase of only 23 millions or only about 7½ per cent. while the population increased about 30 per cent. In support of the second allegation he could find nothing which suggested such a possibility in Mr. Chamberlain's speeches except an allusion in the Birmingham speech to the effect that the Colonies had been backward hitherto in their contributions towards Imperial defence. Was not the small share contributed by the Colonies towards the expense of our national defence rather a bond of union than a sign of disaffection? Australia and Canada came to the front gallantly when we were in need of help. Our Army and Navy cost us somewhere about £1-12s.-6d. per head of the population. The Australian burden for defence was 5/- per head and the Canadian 1/6 per head. As Lord Rosebery said at Sheffield the credit of the Colonies was the credit of the Empire. He questioned whether anyone would deny that the period which had elapsed since the introduction of Free Trade in 1846 had been commercially the most prosperous that England had ever gone through. Mr. Chamberlain had stated that our trade had only increased by 23 millions since 1872. There had been an immense drop in the price of commodities since then. During last session Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P. for the Cleveland Division of Yorkshire, asked the Board of Trade what the value of the exports of 1902 would be at the prices obtaining in 1873, and he was told 418 millions. This would show an increase of 163 millions as against Mr. Chamberlain's 23 millions. So that instead of being stagnant our export trade had nearly doubled itself during the 30 years under review. The tonnage of shipping carrying it had also nearly doubled itself. Mr. Asquith recently quoted the following figures:—Great Britain, in 1870, tonnage of overseas shipping, 5,700,000 tons; in 1902, 10,000,000 an increase of 4,700,000. During the same period in the U.S.A. there was a decrease of 620,000 tons owing, so Mr. Asquith said, to the excessive cost of shipbuilding in a protected country. The figures were in 1870, 1,500,000 tons; 1902, 880,000 tons. Sir Henry Fowler told us that the trade of the country during the first nine months of 1903 was 17 millions better than in the corresponding period of 1902. He thought Mr. Chamberlain ignored home trade too much. Out of 750 millions paid in wages only about 130 millions were assessable to the export trade. Referring in conclusion to retaliation the speaker granted that it was a good thing as a basis for negotiation but a 10 per cent. duty was a very insecure foothold in negotiations with an enemy charging from 30 to 50 or even 100 per cent. The 2/- duty on corn amounted to about 7 per cent. on present prices and it seemed insufficient to be effective though perhaps enough to cause friction between Canada and the United States, from whose ports so much Canadian wheat was shipped in the winter. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr. Sims for a speech for the other side.

Mr. SIMS said that he somewhat differed from Mr. Haskell, as he thought it was indeed sentiment that sent the Australians and Canadians to fight for the Mother Country in South Africa, showing that sentiment did hold the Empire together and that protection alone could save England. But for the colonies it might be a different matter. Hongkong certainly did not want protection, as it was a mere distributing point for the markets of the world.

Mr. HUBSTHOUSE said there should be liberty to tax, but it would be difficult to remove taxes if they proved failures, were fiscal treaties with

the Colonies entered into. If Mr. Chamberlain's policy was as good as his oratory there might be nothing for England to fear. Mr. Chamberlain's second proposal, however, of protection of home manufactures, was worthy of the support of all who wanted the Empire to be self supporting and not England alone. It was just as easy, for instance, to bring wheat from Canada as from America. A policy nearest approaching Free Trade was the best for the Empire.

Mr. SOUTAR said that the Fiscal question might be made a very difficult one. Protection was not altruistic, but very realistic, and on it depended the prosperity of the Empire, the advance of the interests of its trade, and the binding together of the Empire.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the lecturer and speakers, and said he had two resolutions to put before the meeting, as follows:—

Resolved that in view of the increasing restrictions on importation of British goods into foreign countries, Great Britain should reconsider her policy of free entry of foreign goods into her ports.

On a showing of hands it was found that this resolution was carried by 36 to 4.

The second resolution was then put,

Resolved that Great Britain should enter into negotiations with her colonies for the purpose of forming an union more closely binding their commercial interests together.

This was carried unanimously.

With a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting broke up.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB DANCE.

The Hongkong Cricket Club gave a subscription dance at the City Hall on Tuesday, and a very enjoyable function it was, everything passing off in the smoothest manner. The indefatigable secretary, Mr. T. C. Gray, deserves the greatest praise and thanks from members of the Cricket Club at Hongkong, as does also Mr. Sercombe Smith, chairman of the Dance arrangements. Others who materially contributed in the preparations are Fleet-Paymaster Wilson, H.M.S. *Tamar*, Commander Shelford, H.M.S. *Glory*, Lieut. Jellicoe, H.M.S. *Ocean*, and Capt. Davies, A.O.C., who assisted with the decorations; and Mr. H. Hancock, and Lieut. Smith, who supervised the floor, programme, and band. Entering the well-lighted City Hall by the main porchway a dazzling profusion of Japanese lamps, electric lights, palms, flowers, bunting, etc., showed up the handsome staircase. The grand central design at the large first-storey landing window was draped with flags of the Hongkong Cricket Club and Shanghai Cricket Club. Upstairs, the sitting-room adjoining the ball-room was handsomely decorated with wreaths of flowers, palms, bunting, and pictures; one of the latter was of W. G. Grace, and another of an old English cricket match. The ball-room itself was most praiseworthy from every point of view, the floor being in excellent condition, and the ornamented walls very pretty. Various blazers and caps of the many cricket clubs to which Hongkong cricketers have belonged were included in the display, covering the bases of pillars in conjunction with cricket-pads, stumps, and bats. The portrait of Queen Victoria had most prominence, while the principal flags, that is, those occupying the most important positions, were those of Britain, Japan, the United States, and China. On a photograph showed the teams of Hongkong and Shanghai 1903, and another of 1893, on both occasions Hongkong being victorious. The various dances were numbered up on a board in good old cricket style. Here is the list, each dance being named after a cricketer:—

Walse.....	W. G. Grace
Walse.....	C. B. Fry
Lancers.....	K. S. Ranjitsinhji
Walse.....	A. C. MacLaren
Walse.....	P. F. Warner
Two Step.....	B. E. Foster
Walse.....	G. L. Jessop
Lancers.....	B. J. T. Bosanquet
Walse.....	J. B. Mason
Polka.....	S. M. J. Woods
Walse.....	Lord Hawke
Walse.....	F. S. Jackson

NEW TERRITORY NOTES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

11th February.

CHINESE OFFICIALDOM.

Ma Tak-sang, who is a native of Hupeh, has been appointed military mandarin of San On, relieving Chan Leung-kit. The new mandarin is a Mahommedan. Since he has assumed the duties he has had rather a rough time, for robbers have been very active in the countryside. A gang of about 100 men attacked a pawnshop in the market town of Po Hak-hu in the last week of January. This town is about six miles north of the city of Samchun. The robbers intimidated the inhabitants and attempted to force open the doors of the pawnshop. In this they were unsuccessful and they resorted to the use of dynamite and blasted holes in the wall. In the affray one of the pawnshop *fokis* was killed. Property to the value of about \$3,000 was carried away by the robbers. Owing to lack of men—he has got only about 50 braves—the mandarin was unable to follow up the robbers and attack them in their stronghold. I understand that the military strength of the district will be increased. There have been numerous other robberies of late in the neighbourhood of Samchun.

THE STOCKS.

The first time that the stocks as an instrument of punishment have been introduced to the New Territory was this week. Two men stole some cattle on the Chinese side of the border and sold them in British territory, at the market town of Un Long. Of this offence they were convicted in front of Mr. Sercombe Smith and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and six hours' exposure in the stocks. An escort of one Indian sergeant and five constables took the miscreants out and saw to the infliction of the punishment ordered by the Magistrate, afterwards bringing them back to Hongkong to undergo their term of incarceration. The capture of the thieves was effected through the instrumentality of the Antau detective staff.

EUROPEAN OFFICIALS.

Mr. C. McI. Messer has taken over the charge of the Land Court at Taipo. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe is acting in the capacity of Magistrate for the New Territory. Sergeant Clark is leaving Shatin to join the Land Court in the carrying out of work in the Territory.

CUSTOMS.

Mr. Schluter, the officer in charge of the Frontier Customs, is going on leave soon, and I hear that Mr. Sachau, presently in charge of the Kweimiu Customs Station, will take his place.

CROPS.

Some time ago the Government introduced into the New Territory samples of sugar-cane from the Straits Settlements, with the object of improving the sugar-cane produced locally. These canes were given out to certain farmers so that it might be grown alongside the native plants. In a characteristic Chinese way the agriculturist population did not in any way evince the slightest interest in the efforts being made by the Government for their benefit. Instead of giving the imported cane a chance to grow up and be compared with their own cane they gave no attention to it, and in some cases gave it away. This is the time when the Government had expected to have been able to secure some data as a result of their experiment. I understand that they have got little or none at all after all their trouble. The sugar-cane crop is now all out. Sweet potatoes will be a very poor crop. The recent frost and the absence of rain have combined to injure the plants very seriously.

SAMCHUN RIVER DANGERS.

Not very long ago there was a serious boating accident on the Samchun River, as a result of which more than half-a-dozen people lost their lives. Unless some change is made in the methods ruling the passenger traffic on the river there are bound to be more accidents. When the river launches go up the river from Hongkong as far as the state of the tide will permit them the passengers are taken off by covered-in boats of the same type that proved such a veritable death-trap on the recent occasion to which I refer. Inside these craft the passengers huddle in numbers

far beyond the carrying capacity which they boast. Especially at this season of the year when so many Chinese go up into the country from Hongkong to spend the New Year Holidays, the dangers of the river are more obvious than ever. Not content with completely filling the interior of the boats the Chinese sit on the roofs and when way is put on the craft they wobble about from side to side in a manner that is alarming enough in all conscience to any European passenger who may be on board but which does not seem to trouble the phlegmatic Celestials in the least. I suppose the evil will continue to exist until perhaps some European is drowned through the want of regulation of the traffic and then drastic reforms will be rushed through in the customary way that British authorities have of looking the stable-door after the horse is stolen. The trade of the river is developing so rapidly that a continual police patrol would not be out of place.

GAME.

There is not much to be had in the way of sport except pigeon-shooting. Of pigeon there is any amount to be got just now, and as a rule they are in excellent condition and very strong on the wing.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JAPAN'S OPEN PORTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Anping, 31st January, 1904.

SIR,—The *China Mail* makes the following statement in its issue of the 12th instant:—

"The trade between Formosa and Japan is considered as coastwise trade, and only Japanese vessels may engage in it. While the Japanese Government prevents a British vessel from making a voyage between Tamsui and Nagasaki or any other port in Japan, we find the subsidised steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in common with the vessels of other nationalities, carrying freight and passengers from Hongkong to London, touching chiefly at British ports en route."

Article XI. of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty deals with the subject as follows:—

"And a British vessel laden in a foreign country with cargo destined for two or more ports in the dominions and possessions of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, may discharge a portion of her cargo at one port and continue her voyage to the other port or ports of destination where foreign trade is permitted, for the purpose of landing the remainder of her original cargo there, subject always to the laws and Custom House regulations of the two countries. The Japanese Government, however, agrees to allow British vessels to continue, as heretofore, for the period of the duration of the present treaty, to carry cargo between the existing open ports of the empire, excepting to or from the ports of Osaka, Nagate, and Ebusu-minato."

The existing open ports of Formosa were Takao, Anping (Tainanfu), Tamsui, Keelung.

The Anglo-Japanese Treaty was signed and ratified before the annexation of Formosa. The Austro-Hungarian Treaty was ratified after the said annexation had taken place and under the most-favoured-nation clause Great Britain has the same rights as Austro-Hungary. This must be mentioned, as it was said that the Japanese Government intended to recognise only the former open ports of old Japan and not Formosan open ports, as these could not have been meant by the signatories of the treaty. But apart from the fact that the Austro-Hungarian treaty was ratified after the annexation of Formosa, it could not logically be entertained that the portion of the treaty prohibiting coasting trade to foreign flags refers also to the Formosa coast, whilst the portion dealing with the exceptions does not refer to the Formosa coast or the Formosa open ports. In fact, cargo from South Formosa to Japan has been taken by foreign steamers since the new treaty came in force.—Yours, &c.,

R. N. OHLY.

Agent, Tait and Co., Anping and Takao.

OUR "SUNDAY SCHOOLS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

February 5th, 1904.

SIR,—We have heard a deal of late of the mission that devolves upon all Christians to exert themselves, both by precept and example, in bringing the poor, benighted "heathen" within the pale of the Church; so many platitudes have been heard at the recent prize-distributions at various schools, which have been honoured by the presence of our most prominent civil and clerical representatives that it was a matter of great surprise to me to find that, amidst all this solicitation for the welfare of the younger members of the Colony, in so far as their religious instruction is concerned, matters are decidedly lax. I am referring, I should like to say, more particularly to our Cathedral, the centre of our religious system in this Colony.

In reply to a casual question of mine, I was informed that, although a Sunday School was held at St. Paul's College on Sunday mornings (which presumably would be intended more especially for scholars at that institution), there was no Sunday School of any kind attached to the Cathedral, the result of which was that many children went to the Union Church, where the order of service is Presbyterian—certainly not calculated to instil the teachings of the orthodox Catholic Church into the minds of children. Possibly this hybrid system of religious instruction engendered in attending what must be regarded by every true Churchman as an alien place of worship at one hour in the day and the Cathedral itself at another may in part explain the prevalent apathy and indifference in which the manner of ordering the services at the Cathedral is regarded. Let us have a Sunday School of our own, attached to the Cathedral, and not suffer our children to imbibe ideas and sentiments which certainly cannot harmonise with the teachings of the Established Church.—I am, yours, etc.,

HERBERT WENMOUTH.

THE RACE AND THE RACES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 8th February.

SIR,—As the time of our great annual Races approaches it might not be inopportune to call to mind the trouble which arose at Amoy recently, and the ill-considered action which I take it ignited such a flame of anti-foreign resentment. No one who has mixed with the common herd, whether on the pavement, the lower levels, or at the Races, say only of late years, can fail to have seen actions tending to provoke, or actual conflict provoked by the blind folly of men from India.

It may sometimes be pure lightness of heart; it may be uncalled for, and unwarranted arrogance, which leads these children of Anak to bluster and domineer, but in view of results which have happened or might happen, it behoves some wise father of the tribe to exhort his children either to leave their bludgeons, or young saplings, at home, or have ordinary consideration for their equals or betters.

Otherwise your humble servants may have to lose another handkerchief to the gory skull of one more victim of Anakite folly, or be involved in a general outburst which would lay aside both English and Anglicised Indian aliens, and possibly be a loss to lowly but select society, or pavement philosophy.—Yours truly,

PAI MENTO.

HUMPHREYS' ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., Ltd., was held on the 10th inst. at noon in the offices of the Company, 38, Queen's Road Central. Mr. Hart Buck (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. G. Wood, H. W. Slade, J. S. Van Buren, H. Humphreys, Ho Fung, A. H. Mancell, E. S. Joseph, C. Ewens, Captain W. E. Clarke, Captain R. Unsworth, Messrs. Ho Fook, Lo Cheunz Shin, and J. L. Cotter (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for the past ten days, so with your permission I will take them as read. On the credit side of profit and loss you will note that rents and interest show a falling-off as compared with the previous year. The decrease in rents is accounted for by the fact that 1902 rent account included a sum of \$4,000 estreated security for non-fulfilment of a lease contract, and the decrease in interest is apparent in the smaller amount now invested on mortgage. The sum of \$200,000 formerly under the heading of permanent reserve fund has been transferred to insurance reserve fund in accordance with a special resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on the 26th March, 1903. This amount has been increased during the year by the addition of \$607.31, which represents the value of expired risks underwritten by the company. The increase to insurance reserve fund would have been much larger had it not been that many of our old policies did not expire until 31st December last. During the year your directors were offered and accepted a large property in Kowloon at a nominal price over and above the amount for which it was mortgaged to the company. This property when developed will be one of the finest in Kowloon. Building operations covering about half the ground acquired will be commenced this month. The block of fourteen houses on K. I. L. 573 will be completed in about two weeks' time. Eight of these are already let, and we do not anticipate any difficulty in letting the remainder. During the year we have been compelled by order of the Sanitary Board under the Public Health Ordinance, 1902, to expend a sum of \$7,842 in structural alterations to certain of our buildings in Kowloon. With some reluctance we have charged this amount to property account, I say with reluctance because the improvements to the buildings are of a doubtful character and the rents have not been enhanced thereby. On the contrary the rent has been slightly diminished. The Sanitary Board may continue to compel property-owners to pull down the backs of their buildings in order to provide more window area, but it is doubtful whether they will ever be able to prevent the Chinese from keeping the windows constantly closed and thus rendering all the costly improvements null and void. No principle is more firmly established in our constitution or has oftener been upheld by the English Courts than the principle that without compensation a violation of the rights of property will not be permitted even for the general good; yet we find that in the new Health Ordinance nearly all the provisions of the English Acts for compensation have been omitted. The Bill is retrospective and its effect therefore is to legalise confiscation. It has proved a burden to both landlord and tenant, and has caused a serious decline in the value of Chinese suburban property, engendering a feeling of insecurity in regard to it which cannot but be harmful to the best interests of the community. If any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN put the formal resolution to the meeting.

Captain CLARKE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. E. S. JOSEPH moved the re-election of the existing board, of which Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, C. Ewens, H. W. Slade, A. G. Wood, and Ho Tung were the retiring members.

Mr. H. HUMPHREYS moved the re-election of the auditors, Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and W. Hutton Potts.

Mr. A. S. MANCILL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

On the 29th ult., in the Yokohama District Court, the hearing was to take place of a libel action instituted by Mr. Geo. Syme Thomson, representative of Messrs. Dodwell & Co., against the editor and publisher of the *Yokohama Shimpō* in connection with a libellous publication in that paper issued on the 4th December last. The hearing was, however, indefinitely postponed through the application of the defendant's counsel. The action was first filed on the 7th December last.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Hongkong Ice Company was held on the 10th inst. in the General Manager's offices, Pedder Street, at 12.30 p.m. The Hon. C. W. Dickson was in the chair, and there were present Messrs. Duncan Clarke, W. Parlance (Manager), W. W. Dixon, Barton, Lewis, May, Rodger, Mooney, Smyth, K. McK. Ross, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, Lo heung hin, and Peter Dow, Secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said,—Gentlemen, I propose in accordance with custom, to take the report, and accounts as read. An appreciable increase in the quantity of ice disposed of during the year has brought about the improved working result shown in the accounts now before you, which I doubt not you will regard as satisfactory. The low exchange which was current during a considerable part of the year led to the charging of an increased price to consumers taking small supplies from the depot, but with an improvement in rates the old tariff, after a short period, was gladly reverted to. Revenue from cold storage also shows a slight increase but at the rates charged the company does no more than cover expenses, and pay for depreciation of plant. In order to ensure keeping pace with increasing demand it has been thought desirable to discard an obsolete machine, and to install in its place a modern plant capable of producing three times the quantity of ice. This will entail an expenditure of about \$75,000, a portion of which appears in the balance sheet now before you under the heading of extension account. And now, gentlemen, with regard to the suggested appropriation of the year's profit, you are all aware of the competition which threatens, and I need scarcely say that we do not intend to be deprived of any portion of our business without a strenuous effort to retain it. The advisability under such circumstances of placing to contingent account a sum to be hereafter applied in such manner as subsequent developments may necessitate will I hope commend itself to you. There are no other remarks to add, but if any shareholder wishes to ask any questions, I will be pleased to answer them.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Ho Tung seconded, and it was carried.

On the motion of Mr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. RODGER, Mr. T. Arnold was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

HONGKONG & KOWLOON STEAM LAUNCH CO., LD.

WINDING UP.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above company was held at the office of Messrs. Ewens & Harston, solicitors, No. 36, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, on the 11th inst. For some considerable time there were not enough shareholders to form a quorum, but eventually three were gathered together for the transaction of the company's business. The three gentlemen were Messrs. Tang Cheuk Hing, Yei Min Chai, and Ho Kwan Seung.

Mr. HO KWAN SEUNG, in the absence of Mr. Ng Lau Tong, managing director of the company, proposed that Mr. Tang Cheuk Hing be requested to take the chair.

Mr. YEI MIN CHAI seconded and the proposal was agreed to.

After Mr. YEI MIN CHAI had read the notice convening the meeting the CHAIRMAN proposed that the Company be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Companies' Ordinances of Hongkong and that Mr. Tang Kwai Pok of Hongkong be appointed liquidator for the purpose of such winding up.

Mr. HO KWAN SEUNG seconded and the motion was carried.

That was all the business.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

The following is the report of the board of directors of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., to the ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Company, Queen's Buildings, Victoria, Hongkong, on Monday, the 22nd February, at noon.

The directors have now to submit to you their report, with a statement of accounts for the half-year ended 31st December, 1903.

The net profit for the six months, after paying interest due and all charges, amounts to \$514,396.34 to which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account 314,293.70

\$828,690.04

and from this have to be deducted—

Directors' fees ... \$10,000.00

Auditors' fees ... 750.00

40,750.00

leaving available for appropriation \$317,940.04

The directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 12 per cent. or \$300,000, and a bonus of 2 per cent. or \$50,000, in all \$350,000, be paid to the shareholders; that \$42,599.35 be written from the value of Kowloon Docks, and the balance \$425,340.69 be carried to the new account. The fitting and brass shop machinery has been fixed up, and a capacious building for stores and tools erected. Extensions have been found necessary to the foundry and joiner's shop buildings, and additions to plant in the ship-yard. The condensing plant, motors, &c., for the electric drive, and the standards for yard lighting, are on the spot. The engines and dynamos are shipped and may be expected shortly.

The dredger Canton River has again been employed excavating the foreshore in front of Kowloon Dockyard to provide berths for ships under repairs, and is now under charter to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for work at Canton.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. G. H. Medhurst and C. Michelau having left the Colony, Messrs. E. S. Wheeler and A. Haupt have been invited by the directors to the vacant seats at the Board. Mr. E. W. Tilden has been invited to join the Board. These appointments require to be confirmed by the Shareholders at this meeting.

In accordance with clauses 78 and 85 of the Articles of Association, Messrs. D. E. Brown and A. Haupt retire by rotation, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G., has been re-appointed chairman for the year 1904.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thomas Arnold and H. U. Jeffries. The directors recommend Messrs. Arnold and Jeffries for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

July to December, 1903.

31st Dec., 1903.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
	Aberdeen.		
To value of Aberdeen Docks as per last statement		100,000.00	
	Kowloon.		
To value of Kowloon Docks, as per last statement		1,886,579.39	
Less amount since written off		36,579.39	
		\$1,850,000.00	
To amount paid on account of removal of hill on the new extension, Kowloon marine lot No. 27		74.25	
To working expenses of dredger Canton River dredging foreshore near wharf and shipbuilding department		10,407.16	
To amount paid on account of two new houses for European foremen		7,057.59	
To amount paid on account of new fitting and brass shops		54,928.00	
To amount paid on account of removing hill at back of new forge		449.00	
To amount paid on account of new electric installation		3,937.00	
To amount paid on account of new hydraulic and compressed air installation		2,595.68	

To amount paid on account of additional sanitary arrangements for No. 1 dock	179.00
To amount paid on account of moulding-shop extension	10,634.00
To amount paid on account of joiner's shop extension	13,831.00
To amount paid on account of shipyard and boiler shop extension	14,529.00
To amount paid on account of sawmill converting shed into store	1,077.00
To amount paid on account of new power house	30,054.00
To cost of patent plate bending rolls for shipyard	22,405.42
To cost of new band saws for sawmill	655.00
To cost of surface condensing plants, engines, dynamos, electric motors, &c., for new power house	103,637.23
To cost of new machine tools for engine shop	9,936.87
To cost of new machine tools for brass shop	5,862.85
	2,142,599.35
Cosmopolitan.	
To value of Cosmopolitan Dock, as per last statement	3,277.04
Less amount since written off	2,772.04
	300,000.00
To value of tugs, dredgers, launches and lighters	438,006.00
To sundry debtors	270,603.44
To value of material on hand	1,677,220.45
	\$4,878,928.84
31st Dec., 1903. LIABILITIES. \$ c.	
By shareholders for 50,000 shares of \$50 each, fully paid up	2,500,000.00
By Admiralty loan £20,000.00	
Less re-payments 14,236.93	
	£5,763 10.9 at 17 per cent. 72,562.83
By marine insurance account	72,563.83
By sundry creditors	1,460,174.22
By balance of profit brought forward from last account \$311,293.70	
By profit	514,396.34
	828,690.04
	\$4,878,928.81

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

31st Dec., 1903. \$ c.	
To interest	38,462.39
To Crown rent	3,062.05
To fire insurance	3,528.75
To office expenses, salaries, stationery and rent of head office	38,967.59
To drawing office expenses and salaries	18,507.00
To telegrams	2,836.04
To legal expenses	634.30
To marine insurance account	8,750.00
To profit	514,396.34
	\$629,204.46
1st July to 31st Dec., 1903. \$ c.	
By net earnings of the Company's three establishments	62,886.00
By towage, net earnings	1,201.52
By dredger, net earnings	4,877.19
By bonus on insurance premia, &c.	239.75
	\$629,206.46

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 9th February.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).
[IN CHAMBERS].

GOMES v. GOMES.

His Lordship in delivering Judgment in this case said:—

This was a summons taken out by Antonio Simplicio Gomes, the sole surviving child of the testator's second marriage, against Francisco d'Assis Gomes and Augusto José Gomes, the executors of the will of one João Baptista Gomes, deceased, to determine the question "to what share of certain property bequeathed by the testator was the said A. S. Gomes entitled under the said will." Mr. M. W. Slade appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. W. Sharp, K.C., for the defendants.

The will was dated 20th August, 1887. The testator died 2nd September, 1889. Probate was

granted in this Colony on 1st November, 1889. The original will was made in Portuguese at Macao. The domicile of the testator was, I understand, Portuguese. The passage of the translated will to which I am asked to give effect relates to certain leasehold properties in Hongkong (immovable property, that is to say) in which he first gave his wife a life interest. She died about 14th May, 1902, and with reference to such event, the testator's will proceeds as follows:—"I further determine that, after the death of my wife, the income of the said properties in Hongkong, after deducting Crown rent to the local Government, insurance charges or repairs, be divided between our children of the first and second marriages *in stirpes et non in capita*, and this I leave to the discretion of my executors whether these properties should be preserved without being sold, but in case they are sold, the proceeds shall be divided, *in stirpes et non in capita*, between our children of the first and second marriages." It seems that the testator was twice married, and that his second wife was, when she married him, a widow, having been previously married to one U. C. V. de Figuerido, by whom she had children. There were, therefore, three families derived from three stocks, viz., the children of the testator by his first wife, the children of the testator by his second wife, and the children of his second wife by her first husband. Now, construing the will according to English law or the law of Hongkong, which is the same in this instance, it seems quite clear that the proper way to distribute the property would be, not to count heads (*capita*) but to regard the origin of the children, the stocks or stems or roots (*the stirpes*) from which they sprang, and to divide the property into three equal shares as representing the three *stirpes*. Of these three equal shares the children of the testator's first marriage, living at the time of his death, ought to have one, divided equally between them; the child or children of the testator's second marriage, living at the time of his death, ought to have another share divided equally between them; and the children of the testator's second wife, by her first husband, living at the time of the testator's death, ought to have the remaining share divided equally among them. It must be borne in mind that leaseholds are immovable property, and Mr. Dicey accurately lays down, in his "Conflict of Laws," the proposition that, "Generally speaking, all questions touching the validity, construction, and effect of wills relating to immovables are determined by the *lex situs*." It was stated that the executors have sold the leaseholds, but in this case I think the "proceeds" should be dealt with in the same way as the "income" would have been, had the leaseholds not been sold. I expressed my views as to the construction of this will in September, 1902, but it was represented to me by the counsel for the executors that when the testator used the expressions as to *stirpes* and *capita* he meant to use them with the meaning they would have in Portuguese law, as he was acquainted with that law, having at one time been acting Chief Justice of Macao, and I understood it was suggested they had a somewhat different meaning in Portuguese law from what they had in English law. I, therefore, allowed the parties to obtain and lay before me the evidence of experts in Portuguese law, which, I am informed, is identical, in this instance, with the law of Macao, as to the meaning of the passage in the will containing those expressions, according to the Portuguese law. Unfortunately, the opinions of the experts are by no means unanimous, and most of them do not confine those opinions to the precise point I wanted to know. It now, however, seems clear as I always expected that the terms *in stirpes* and *in capita* mean precisely the same in Portuguese law as in English law. Those expressions have been imported from the Roman law into the English law, as well as into the law of Portugal, and of those other European nations whose law is, more or less, directly founded on Roman law. They were expressions familiar to the Roman lawyers, and their meaning is clear enough. In the third book of Justinian's Institutes, compiled in the first half of the sixth century, they are used with the same meaning as they have now. See title 1, head 6. It seems, therefore,

obvious to me that, when the testator said he wishes the property divided *in stirpes et non in capita* between our children of the first and second marriages, he meant that he did not wish each child to have an equal share, but that he wished the children of his first marriage to have one share between them, the children of his second marriage another, and the children of his second wife's first marriage to have the remaining share between them. It is difficult to see how he could have used after words briefly to convey his meaning. It was, however, contended by the counsel for the executors that he used them with a view of letting in the descendants of any of the children who might die before the testator; that is to say, he wished the grand-children to stand in the place of their deceased parents, where such parents came within the meaning of "our children of the first and second marriages." In the case of intestacy, children are allowed to stand in their parents' place. It was so by Roman law, and it is so by English law and Portuguese law, but this is not a case of intestacy, but of construing a will, and at has been the law of England for the last century or more that where there is a bequest to children as a class and there are any such children living at the death of the testator, grand-children are not allowed to stand in the place of deceased children. This was decided in 1804 in the case of Radcliffe v. Buckley, 10 Vesey (Junior) page 195. See the judgment of the Master of the Rolls on page 201. In that case the testator left the residue of his property to the children of his four deceased brothers and deceased sister (naming the brothers and sister) "to be equally divided among them in their respective parents' stead *per stirpes*, and not *per capita*, share and share alike if more than one, and if but one then I give the same whole to that one." The sister had no children living at the time the will was made, and the testator knew it, but she had grandchildren living at the date of the death of the testator. It was urged that the grandchildren were entitled to take *per stirpes* in the place of their parents, who were deceased children of the sister. The Master of the Rolls, however, held that they could not do so, and that only the children could take, and that the children were to be thrown into families, they were to take in their parents' stead *per stirpes* and not *per capita* and that each set of children was to have an equal share of the residue. Indeed, in the case of the Earl of Orford v. Churchill, reported in 3, Vesey and Beames Reports, page 59, the Master of the Rolls, ten years later, viz., in 1814, says: "I never knew an instance where there were children to answer the proper description, that grand-children were permitted to share along with them, although where there is a total want of children, grand-children have been let in under a liberal construction of the word children." The words of the Wills Act, 1 Viet., cap. 26, sec. 33, do not apply to gifts to a class, for the intention was to provide against lapses merely, and not to alter the construction to be put on the will. See 2 Williams on Executors, page 1086. The contention on the part of the counsel for the executors was that we must look for the *stirpes* among the children, and that the grand-children were intended to take *in stirpes* and the surviving children were to take *in capita*, and Robinson v. Shepherd, 10 Jurist, new series, p. 53, and Re Wilson, 24, Chancery Division, p. 664, were cited. In my opinion that is not the true construction of this will. None of the children were to take *in capita*; they were to take *in stirpes*, and therefore I hold that the contention cannot be supported. Finally, at the last hearing it was contended that the Portuguese words *nosso filhos* ought to have a broader interpretation than "our children"; in fact, might be treated as equivalent to "our issue." This is the first time that any fault has been found with the translation submitted to the court more than fourteen years ago, when the probate was granted, and the reasons given for extending the meaning do not convince me that the translation is incorrect. In conclusion I may add that some of the Portuguese experts, in giving their opinion suggest that the testator has included in the leaseholds bequeathed by him his wife's interest therein, and that he could only bequeath what belonged solely to himself. That is a

question partly of fact on which I offer no opinion upon the present occasion, and I only mention the matter at all, because I wish it to be understood that the construction of the will is not affected by the allegation, even if it should turn out to be correct, that the testator gave more than belonged to him. What would pass by the will would be such property as the testator had power to bequeath, and that is the property which must be divided in the manner I have indicated. In all the circumstances I allow the costs of both sides to come out of the estate, to be taxed as between solicitor and client.

HOCKEY.

H.K.H.C. v. H.M.S. "ALBION."

This game on the 5th in the second round of the Hockey Cup (both teams having drawn byes in the first round) ended in a win for the *Albion* by 1-0. Play was advertised to start at 4.15, but it was after 4.35 when a commencement was really made, and then the Club captain put in a substitute at half-back, Knyvett not having turned up. He arrived a few minutes after the start, unfortunately too late. His place was occupied by Dr. Horley, of the *Waterwitch*, which ship thus supplied five members of the Club team. The game was less than 5 minutes old when a hot shot by Dowding went into the *Albion's* goal, but it had broken through the side-net end, so of course did not score. Play inclined in favour of the civilians all through the first half, but their forwards were ineffective in front of goal and missed their chances. Wodehouse had a fine chance once, but stumbled and shot wide. Half-time arrived with the score nil all. Soon after the restart the *Albions* broke away and scored what proved the only goal of the match, with a rather soft shot. The Club, as in the previous half, did most of the pressing, but could not put on the finishing touch, and so suffered defeat by the margin of a goal. Hooper played as good a forward game as anyone on the field, and Murphy and Woodman were best in defence for the Club. The *Albion* forwards were smart and fast, but the balance of play was certainly in the Club's favour.

93RD BURMAS v. 110TH MAHRATTAS.

A hockey match in the second round of the Cup competition was played off on the 10th between the 110th Mahrattas and the 93rd Burmas ('st team). A large crowd gathered to watch the match, and were rewarded by as fine an exhibition of hockey as has been seen in this Colony. The 93rd Burmas were somewhat fancied, but it was recognised that Lieut. Heath, the Mahrattas' centre forward, might turn the game in his side's favour. This was precisely what happened. The Burmas started off well and scored a goal in the first ten minutes. They continued to have the better of the game in the first half, but could not add to their score. Soon after the restart the Mahrattas got two corners in quick succession, and after the second Heath shot a fine goal. This stirred the Burmas up and their score went ahead again with a well-shot goal. The Mahrattas, however, were not to be denied, and Heath added a second goal, and not long after a third. The Burmas played up desperately and, taking advantage of the fact that Heath retired from the forward line for a few minutes to back, went up the field, when Carleton scored for them, making the game 3 all. The Mahrattas came on again and put through a fourth goal. Time was now short, and the Burmas, do what they could, were unable to draw level. On the contrary the Mahrattas returned to the attack and Heath scored his fourth goal, making the score 5-3. Soon after the game ended. No better contest could be desired. Heath's play was wonderfully good, and distinctly won the match for his side.

The Supreme Court at Manila has rendered its finding in the case of *McCulloch versus R. Aonle*, giving judgment for the defendant. The case is one growing out of the sale of the old Maria Cristina cigar-factory with a quantity of tobacco. The plaintiff claimed that some of the tobacco included in the contract was damaged and that it was thereby depreciated in value to the amount of \$24,109.29. The lower court gave judgment for the plaintiff in this amount, but the finding was overruled in the Supreme Court.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The Eighth Club Race took place on the 6th and 7th instant over No. 28 Course. The starting line was as usual Police Pier, thence to a markboat off Chung Hue (starboard), then to North Fairway Buoy, back again to Chung Hue, and home. On Saturday the championship yachts started at 1.30 p.m. Only two yachts crossed the line when the gun fired, viz. the *Dione*, steered by His Excellency the Acting Governor, and the *Elspeth*. The *Aileen* came up from her moorings and crossed the line between 3 and 4 minutes later. The wind was blowing strong from the S.E., and as the yachts neared the markboat it increased in force to half a gale, and the strong ebb from the Kep Ling Mun running down against it produced a nasty choppy sea.

The *Dione* reached the markboat about 4 lengths ahead of *Elspeth*, and the *Aileen* came up 2 minutes later. *Dione* and *Elspeth* had to gybe round the mark, and whilst rounding they came into collision, the *Elspeth* knocking a hole in *Dione's* starboard bilge, through which the water poured. *Dione's* helm was promptly put up and she ran under the sheltered side of Chung Hue, and she filled with water as she touched the beach. Beating up to the N. Fairway Buoy the great weight and power of the *Aileen* told in the heavy cross sea, and she gradually clawed to windward of the *Elspeth*, and increasing her lead in the second round won easily.

The times of the finish were as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Aileen</i>	4	44	34
<i>Elspeth</i>	4	51	55

A protest has been lodged against the *Elspeth*.

On Sunday light airs and calms prevailed—a very different sailing day to the Saturday.

At gunfire at 1 p.m. the five one-design yachts crossed the line, and *Erica* taking the lead kept it to the end. The wind fell almost entirely at the finish, and *Bonito* drifted the wrong side of the mark-boat and was unable to finish.

The handicap yachts followed the one-design boats after ten minutes interval.

The *Alannah* soon established a long lead and came in an easy winner. *Doreen* had a good race with the *Gloria*, eventually beating her, but disqualified herself by fouling the North Fairway buoy. The rest did not finish.

The times at the finish were:—

ONE-DESIGN CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Erica</i>	3	45	0
<i>Min</i>	3	48	10
<i>Kathleen</i>	3	49	0
<i>Colleen</i>	3	49	35

HANDICAP CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Alannah</i>	3	52	30
<i>Iris</i>	4	20	50
<i>Doreen</i>	4	43	0

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The following cards were returned at the monthly meeting held at the Happy Valley from the 6th to 8th February:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. N. J. Stabb	88	—	12	=	76
Mr. H. C. Dowding	84	—	6	=	78
Mr. E. A. Ram	94	—	15	=	79
Dr. E. R. Grazebrook, R.N.	98	—	18	=	80
Lieut. Wilson, R.N.	98	—	16	=	82
Mr. W. Taylor	100	—	18	=	82
Mr. E. J. Grist	86	—	3	=	83
Dr. S. T. Reid, R.N.	93	—	10	=	83
Capt. Harris	95	—	12	=	83
Mr. W. J. Saunders	96	—	13	=	83
Dr. J. K. Raymond, R.N.	90	—	6	=	84
Mr. C. H. Grace	99	—	14	=	85
Mr. H. W. Slade	98	—	12	=	86
Mr. A. W. Campbell, R.N.	92	—	4	=	88

44 entries.

POOL.

Mr. N. J. Stabb	88	—	12	=	76
Mr. T. S. Forrest	76	—	2	=	78
Mr. E. V. D. Parr	90	—	12	=	78
Mr. E. A. Ram	94	—	15	=	79
Mr. J. Johnstone	86	—	5	=	81
Mr. E. J. Grist	86	—	3	=	83
Dr. Reid, R.N.	93	—	10	=	83

Mr. W. J. Saunders	96	—	13	=	83
Dr. Raymond, R.N.	96	—	6	=	84
Mr. C. H. Grace	99	—	14	=	85
Mr. A. W. Campbell, R.N.	92	—	4	=	88

35 entries.

THE HONGKONG RACES.

The following were some of the times at the racecourse on Tuesday morning:—

<i>Mince Pie</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	36 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.10.
<i>Talbot</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile, last qr.:—	30 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Arranapogue</i> and <i>Fun</i> , 1-mile:—	33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.08 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.43, 2.19.
<i>Rocket</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	32 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.04.
<i>Lord Algy</i> and <i>Benzoline</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	31 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.05.
<i>Modesty</i> , 1-mile:—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.17 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.52 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.24 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Colonist</i> and <i>Zoufall</i> , 1-mile:—	36 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.12, 1.49, 2.21 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Yellow Skin</i> , 1-mile:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.09, 1.44, 2.20.
<i>Go Canny</i> and <i>Snark</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.07, 1.41.
<i>Benroy</i> , 1-mile:—	40, 1.18, 1.54, 2.27.
<i>Manila</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	35 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.12, 1.47, 2.22 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.58.
<i>Go Bang</i> , 1-mile:—	37, 1.14, 1.50, 2.26.
<i>Neddy</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ mile:—	35, 1.11, 1.46.
<i>Tai Yat</i> , 1-mile:—	35, 1.10, 1.44, 2.16 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Standard</i> , 1-mile:—	37, 1.14, 1.50 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.23 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Remnant</i> , 1-mile:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.06 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.39, 2.07 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>School Girl</i> , 1-mile:—	31, 1.02, 1.32, 2.02 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Runaway Girl</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles; last mile:—	33, 1.05, 1.35, 2.05.
<i>Dandy</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	31 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.01 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.31 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.01 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.31.
<i>Set</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	32 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.03, 1.38 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Polka</i> , 1-mile; last $\frac{1}{2}$:—	33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.07, 1.39.
<i>The Crow</i> , 1-mile:—	37, 1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.47 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.21 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Aladdin</i> , 1-mile:—	36 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.44 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.17.
<i>Dormouse</i> , 1-mile:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.09, 1.44, 2.18 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Quebec</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	full time, 2.53 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The following were some of Wednesday's times:—

<i>Rebel King</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	34, 1.07 $\frac{3}{5}$, 1.41 $\frac{3}{5}$, 2.14 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.48 $\frac{3}{5}$.
<i>Algerine</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	38, 1.13, 1.47 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.20, 2.52 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Rare Rose</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	38, 1.12 $\frac{2}{5}$, 1.46 $\frac{2}{5}$, 2.21, 2.53 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Vancouver</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	39 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.13, 1.47 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.21, 2.53.
<i>Pander</i> , 1-mile:—	33 $\frac{1}{5}$, 1.07, 1.42, 2.14.
<i>Totila</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	41 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.20 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.56 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.32 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3.05, 3.37 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Northern Rose</i> , 1-mile:—	35, 1.10, 1.44, 2.16 $\frac{3}{5}$.
<i>Day Break</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	32, 1.03 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Discord</i> , 1-mile:—	36, 1.10 $\frac{2}{5}$, 1.44, 2.16 $\frac{4}{5}$.
<i>Sylph Rose</i> , 1-mile:—	35, 1.07 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.42, 2.13.
<i>Talbot</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	35, 1.09, 1.43, 2.18, 2.52.
<i>La France Rose</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—	37, 1.15, 1.48 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.23, 2.57, 3.28 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Fiscal</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	37, 1.09, 1.42, 2.15, 2.48 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Disclosure</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.04 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Chintanque</i> , 1-mile:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.08, 1.42, 2.15 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Liberty Rose</i> and <i>Eclipse</i> , 1-mile:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.10, 1.44 $\frac{4}{5}$, 2.16 $\frac{4}{5}$.
<i>Turbine</i> , 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.08 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.44 $\frac{4}{5}$.
<i>Rocket</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	33, 1.06, 1.40, 2.15, 2.48.

The following were some of Thursday's times:—

<i>Aladdin</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.07 $\frac{3}{5}$, 1.41 $\frac{3}{5}$, 2.15 $\frac{3}{5}$, 2.51.
<i>Quebec</i> , 1-mile:—	39 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.13 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.46 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.19 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Thistle and Good Bye</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	46 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.29, 2.09 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.44, 3.17 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Protection</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	39, 1.14 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.50, 2.23 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.56.
<i>Rez and Royal</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.09, 1.44.
<i>Dormouse</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	31 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.04 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Alarm and Mongoose</i> , 1-mile:—	35, 1.11, 1.46, 2.21.
<i>Ben Roy</i> , 1-mile:—	last $\frac{1}{2}$, 35, 1.09 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Standard and Tai Yat</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	40, 1.14, 1.50, 2.22, 3.05, 3.37.
<i>Modesty</i> , 1-mile:—	34, 1.17, 1.52, 2.24.
<i>Growler</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.08, 1.45.
<i>Ca Canny and Reed Toorie</i> , 1-mile:—	last $\frac{1}{2}$, 34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.09.
<i>Snark</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	33, 1.07 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Fair Trade</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles:—	42 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.20 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.35, 3.06.
<i>Colonial and Manila</i> , 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—	32, 1.07, 1.58 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Zoufall and Pesh</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	40 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.21 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.53 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Tee To Tum</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	32, 1.05, 1.41 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Remnant</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	57.
<i>Chee Sai</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—	33, 1.02, 1.30 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Runaway Girl</i> , 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—	29, 59 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.28 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>Dandy</i> , 1-mile:—	33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.04, 1.36 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.04 $\frac{1}{2}$.
<i>School Girl</i> , 1-mile:—	28 $\frac{1}{2}$, 57 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.28, 1.59 $\frac{1}{2}$.

JAPANESE ARMY MANŒUVRES.

In the current number of the *East of Asia* Mr. Francis McCullagh's account of "The Japanese Manœuvres" will be read with interest. Mr. McCullagh was the first and only foreign newspaper man present at the annual military manœuvres in Japan. His request to see them was regarded with great suspicion and information was only obtained with difficulty. He succeeded, however, and the result is worth the pains. Here is a word-portrait of the Mikado:—"The representative of one of the most ancient royal families in existence is a tall man rather inclined to *embonpoint*. He wore the dress of a commanding officer—white trousers, black jacket, black peaked cap with red stripes, and as there was little gold lace on his coat and only one or two decorations. His Majesty was probably the most simply dressed of all the groups assembled behind the Imperial banner. He wore white gloves and frequently smoked cigarettes—a fact which, taken in connection with his style of wearing his sparse jet-black beard, with his slow, deliberate manner, and with a slight air of melancholy and dreaminess which generally rested on his features, gave him a certain resemblance to the third Napoleon. Along the country lanes where his gorgeous carriage could not carry him, the Mikado walked slowly, grasping his sword so as to keep it from trailing, and frequently glancing at the ground to make sure of his footsteps. In the saddle his seat was like that of the first Napoleon. In his carriage he generally sat upright and slightly averted his face from the spectators if they were only on one side of the roads. If they were on both sides, he looked right in front of him with a rather impenetrable and expressionless air." Of the Japanese soldier the writer says that he is without nerves, in which respect he enjoys a considerable advantage over his European comrades. "To describe the Japanese officer in a few words—he is as poor as a church mouse; he takes his profession very seriously; he studies very hard and longs for the Government to send him to Germany to finish his studies, with all the longing which the young American lady experiences to get to Paris or the good Christian to get to heaven. Japan is undoubtedly a nation after Mr. Kipling's own heart, for here there are practically no flannel'd fools at the wicket or muddled oafs at the goals—everyone loves the war-game best."

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY.

	LEVEL. 1903.	1904.
	Below overflow	Below overflow.
Tytam	22 ft. 2 in. 27 ft. 5½ in.	
Pokfulam	28 ft. 0½ in. 31 ft. 10 in.	
Wongneicheong	34 ft. 0½ in. 23 ft. 9 in.	
	STORAGE GALLONS.	
	1903.	1904.
Tytam	222,520,000	192,460,000
Pokfulam	10,645,000	6,160,000
Wongneicheong	2,369,000	7,382,000

Total 235,534,000 206,002,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

	1903.	1904.
Consumption ..	72,481,000	80,761,000 gallons
Estimated population ..	217,200	222,100
Consumption per head per day	10.7	11.7 gallons

Intermittent supply in force during the whole of January in both years. Though the quantity in reservoirs is 29 millions less than in 1903, it is 115 millions more than in 1902.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

	1903.	1904.
Consumption ..	13,248,000	14,481,000 gallons
Estimated population ..	60,000	65,900
Consumption per head per day	7.1	7.0 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

HONGKONG.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. J. H. Kemp has been appointed a Magistrate.

Two plague cases were reported on Monday both Chinese and both fatal.

Commodore Dicken and Mrs. Dicken left London on the 8th ult. per P. & O. steamer *Australia*, connecting with the *Ballaarat* at Colombo, for Hongkong.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 7th February, 1904, were 165 non-Chinese and 75 Chinese to the former, and 76 non-Chinese and 2,559 Chinese to the latter institution.

H.E. Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Commissioner at Weihaiwei, arrived from Shanghai on the 8th inst. by the s.s. *Ernest Simons*, with Mrs. Stewart-Lockhart and infant. Our late Colonial Secretary has been stopping with Mr. Tomes. He returns to Weihaiwei to-day, Mrs. Lockhart and family proceeding home.

It is no strange thing in Hongkong to see strangely misspelt names on Chinese shop fronts and printed notices. One of the funniest of this kind of exhibition is to be seen at present. It is displayed near the Occidental Hotel and it announces to the public that certain articles are for sale at this particular shop "opposite the Accidental Hotel." Not a bad name for a hotel either.

It was reported on Wednesday by the police that on the previous day a young Chinaman had committed suicide at Aberdeen by hanging himself to a tree. The dead body was found suspended and was cut down. Deceased was only 22 years of age. He used to be employed by the Harbourmaster, and recently got dismissed for what reason does not transpire. It is presumable that his dismissal had preyed on his mind and led him to take his own life.

Colonel Wyll, S.B., has resigned command of the Sherwood Foresters, the resignation having effect from Thursday. On the 10th inst. he inspected the 1st battalion of his late regiment—or rather his then regiment—a last inspection. Afterwards Colonel Wyll spoke a few words to the men, thanking them for their support. The band played "Auld Lang Syne" before dismissal. Temporary command of the regiment has been taken over by Major L. S. Gordon Cumming.

With reference to a special *Daily Press* telegram from Manila, dated 9th inst., to the effect that 45 of the constabulary and garrison at Vigan, Ilocos province, Luzon, had seized the barracks, liberated the prisoners, and escaped southward with 55 rifles and plenty of ammunition, it is now reported that an American is visiting Filipinos at Hongkong under various pretences. He refuses to give his name or address, and is suspected of being an United States detective.

On Wednesday at the Supreme Court His Honour the Chief Justice Sir William Goodman admitted to practice as a solicitor in Hongkong, Mr. T. A. Hanmer, who has for some time past been acting as Assistant Secretary to Mr. G. A. Woodcock, of the Sanitary Board Office. Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law, who was instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, solicitor, introduced Mr. Hanmer to the Court. His Lordship said he found all the necessary papers in order and he welcomed Mr. Hanmer to the Bar of Hongkong.

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York, has sold to the International Bank its Eastern branches, viz., those at Hongkong, Manila, and Shanghai.

For some months past there has been a steady decrease in boarders at St. Peter's College; in fact, the number, it is said, has come down from about 120 to less than 50. What is the chief cause of discontent is hard to say, but, whatever it is, the boys have nothing to say against the principal, who is always spoken of as most kind-hearted. On Saturday last, for some reason or other, Filipino boys had their leave stopped, with the result that they armed themselves with cricket-bats, and such like, and challenged the brothers to come down to the playground and enforce the new regulation. Eventually boys left the school on Sunday, six booking to Manila without delay, while others found quarters elsewhere. Several other boys, almost all the big boys, it is said, are also about to leave the school.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The appointment is notified at the Admiralty of Lieutenant H. Escombe to the *Glory*, as flag lieutenant to Sir G.H.U. Noel.

Mr. Melton Prior, the *Illustrated London News* war artist, now in Japan, is on his 27th war commission for the *News*.

A Scientific Society is to be formed very shortly in Bangkok, on the lines of two already flourishing in Japan.

M. Paderewski is to visit Japan, proceeding via the Trans-Siberian, in the course of a prolonged tour he is about to make. Afterwards he proposes to visit China and India. But the war, of course, must affect his arrangements.

H.E. Sir Henry and Lady Blake, accompanied by H.R.H. Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein, visited Anuradhapura, the most celebrated site of Buddhist remains in Ceylon, on the 21st ultimo and following day.

The troubles in Mindanao, P.I., do not appear to be nearing a cessation. The latest news is that Lieut. Campbell W. Flake has been killed, and Lieut. William E. Roberts and private Foy seriously wounded, in a conflict with the Moros. They all belong to the 22nd U.S. Infantry.

If Japan and Russia ever come to blows the contest is likely to be the best-reported event in the history of journalism, says the *Kobe Chronicle*. War correspondents are flocking thick and fast to the East. The majority of these gentlemen are staying in Japan—preferably the capital—for a few days, but will soon be on their way to Corea and Manchuria, whither they have been preceded by a number of correspondents who have already visited those parts and returned to await events.

The most important arrest made for many days, says the *Manila Times* of the 2nd ult., was that of Geronimo Medina, alias Juan Medina, aide-de-camp and private secretary to Artemio Ricarte at Binan yesterday, which has led to the arrest of General of Division Munoz, Ricarte's agent in Manila, and the capture of a book showing the names of those holding commissions in Ricarte's new army and of a large number of prominent natives, some of whom, it is said, have been welcome guests at Governmental receptions. They have contributed large sums of money to the Hongkong junta to be used by Ricarte in raising a rebellion against the United States Government in the Philippines.

A telegram dated Calcutta, January 24th, says:—A few particulars of the interview Colonel Younghusband had with some envoys from Lhasa have been received. The Lhasa General offered favourable terms if the British retired to Yatung. Colonel Younghusband replied that it was too late for such a course. The General threatened trouble if the advance continued. Colonel Younghusband replied that, though hopeful of a peaceful settlement, he was fully prepared to meet opposition. He advised the General to inform the Lhasa Government accordingly. The General is evidently the most moderate of envoys, but overweighed by the Lamas, who are obstructive as regards a peaceful settlement. The interview was friendly.

The *Pinang Gazette*, discussing the probable effects on the Strait Settlements of a war, if China were to be drawn into it, says:—At least 75 per cent of the inhabitants of the Peninsula are Celestials whose conservatism demands the importation of their clothes and even much of their *makan*—preserved vegetables, duck, etc.—from China. This demand constitutes a very substantial share of our trade, for both Penang and Singapore are transshipment and not producing ports. Millions of dollars worth of goods for the Chinese are brought to these two centres, and from thence distributed, mainly in coasting vessels. If the ports of China were closed during a protracted war this importation would cease, our inter-port and coasting trade would be dislocated, our markets would be disorganised, and red ruin would stalk among the Chinese shopkeepers from one end of the colony to the other. The importation of coolies would be checked and the price of labour would rise as rapidly as that of food-stuffs.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Shanghai, 5th February.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son in their circular of this date state:—The home markets are unchanged. Raw Silk.—A few small settlements are reported in Tsatles and Kahings, the high rate of exchange presents business to any extent. Yellow Silk.—A considerable business has been done, chiefly in Mienchews, Hand Filatures. A moderate business is reported principally in Crack Chops for America; but as stocks both of New Style and Crack Chops are now very light, holders are unwilling to sell until after China New Year, anticipating that better prices will then be obtainable for the small stocks now on their hands. Steam Filatures are neglected. Waste Silk.—No change in the position to report.

CANTON, 30th January, 1904.—Re-reels:—A few transactions only have taken place since our last circular, from which we quote:—Yee Wo Hing's Extra White Ticket at \$785, and No. 1, \$755. Filatures.—Quiet with little doing at slightly lower prices; from purchases made we quote:—Yu Cheong Wo, 10/12 at \$850; Yee Wo Cheong, 18/22 at \$760 Yuen Hing, 11/13-13/15 at \$735. Short-reels.—Quiet, some purchases have been made, but nothing of importance; from which we quote:—Kwong Shun Ching at \$880, Kwong Shun \$830, Kun King at \$805. Waste Silk.—Continues quiet, with but little business since our last report.

OPIUM.

7th February.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.
Malwa New\$925 to \$954 per picul.
Malwa Old\$970 to \$990 do.
Malwa Older\$1,030 to \$1,050 do.
Malwa V. Old\$1,080 to \$1,100 do.
Persian fine quality. \$900 to — do.
Persian extra fine\$910 to — do.
Patna New\$1,290 to — per chest.
Patna Old— to — do.
Benares New\$1,285 to — do.
Benares Old— to — do.

HONGKONG, 11th February.

The movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Stocks as per circular of 28th Jan., 1904.	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian
Feb. 1st Imports per Chusan	445½	210	210	178
" 6th " " Suixang	—	250	160	—
" 8th " " C. Apcar	—	123	40	—
" 13th " " Australian	—	590	60	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	2,272½	2,136	919	1,779
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	165	200	188	—
Estimated Stocks this day	1,825	1,354	590	1,663

Bengal.—Owing to the great rise in exchange the market is disorganized, and prices are nominally quoted at \$1290 for Patna and \$1285 for Benares.

Malwa.—There is also no business doing just now; nominal rates are:—

New\$925
2-3 years old\$970
4-5 " "\$1,030
Oldest\$1,080

Persian.—The Market is very quiet.

COAL.

During the month of January 48,210 tons of Japanese coal were exported from Moji to Hongkong, 37,340 tons to Shanghai, 22,510 tons to Chefoo, 11,300 tons to Singapore, 7,000 tons to Colombo, 5,600 to Savanbello, 2,000 tons to Bombay, 2,300 tons to Swatow, and 8,353 tons to other foreign ports, making a total of 144,613 tons. Besides the above, 68,346 tons were transported to other Japanese ports, while the steamers that visited the northern port last month took in 50,000 tons of coal for their own use. The total quantity of coal shipped from Moji for January amounted therefore to 262,959 tons, which shows an increase of 9,465 tons compared with that for the corresponding month of last year.

COTTON.

HONGKONG 30th January.—Very small business at a decline of ½, market closes depressed. Stock about 2,300 bales.

Bombay 25.00 to 27.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon } 25.00 to 29.00 "
and Dacca }
Shanghai and Japanese, 30.00 to 31.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo, 30.00 to 31.00 "

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, Feb. 12th says:—Towards the close of last mail the market passed into a state of quietude which was soon disturbed by the unexpected appearance of two or three local dealers who, with a view to strengthening their previous cheap purchases, added a further lot of close upon 8,000 bales to their already heavy holdings, prices paid being in some instances as high as \$6 per bale over last quotations. The buying has been purely speculative, as at the moment everybody in the country is busy settling their yearly accounts; but the outlook warrants the action of the dealers. The probability of short supplies in the near future, consequent on extreme rates of cotton in India, and the paucity of stock both in native hands and in the country, point to a maintenance of the advance on resumption of business after the holidays. Meanwhile the market has again become quiet, but closes firm.

The short-time movement initiated last month in Bombay is extending, owing to the enormously wide disparity between the prices of yarn and the cost of production at the present values of the manufactured article.

Local Manufacture.—Continues quiet; no business reported.

Japanese Yarn:—The high prices now asked for Bombay No. 16s & 20s is diverting the attention of dealers to these spinning, and sales to the extent of 1,600 bales are reported at an advance of \$1 to \$2 in rates.

Raw Cotton.—Extreme rates check consumption, and the past fortnight has been a blank one both in Indian and China descriptions. Estimated unsold stock about 1,800 bales Indian and 250 bales China. Quotations are \$26 to \$30 for Bengal and \$28 to \$31 for Chinese.

Exchange on India, in sympathy with silver, has taken an upward turn and closes strong to-day at Rs. 142½ for T/T, and Rs. 113½ for Post; on Shanghai 70½ and on Yokohama 95½.

The undernoted business in imported and local threads is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 29th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Holders have freely met buyers, and sales aggregating 7,800 bales have been effected comprising 300 bales of No. 6s, 3,350 bales No. 10s, 120 bales No. 12s, 20 bales No. 14s, 340 bales No. 16s and 3,670 bales No. 20s, prices remaining with little alteration as those last given. Estimated unsold stock about 48,000 bales.

Japanese:—At a decline of half to one tael in No. 16s, and two to three taels in No. 20s about 2,000 bales have changed hands, say No. 16s at Tls. 85½ to 91, and No. 20s at Tls. 93 to 96.

Local:—A blank fortnight has been experienced in these threads, the ideas of both buyers and sellers being too wide apart to lead to business.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Trade Report of 5th February, state:—With exception of the regular auctions business has come to a dead stop. The war scare is becoming more and more acute and the most optimistic are beginning now to see the impossibility of avoiding a collision. It is evidently Japan's desire to have her two new cruisers, which are now hastening out, well within protecting distance before opening the campaign, as she must know from past experience that Russia's procrastination is merely to gain time to complete her preparations, and that she will never back down unless compelled to. One thing is certain, and that is, Japan is not wasting the time, and the systematic manner in which she is getting ready for all eventualities is an object lesson worthy of careful study. It is rumoured that, in order not to dislocate the commercial steamboat service between this and her shores, a number of the steamers of one of our local lines have been chartered to replace the boats taken up by the Government. The great uncertainty as to what will be the effect on the markets in China is not unnaturally severely exercising the minds of the Native dealers, considering the large interest they already have in its immediate future. The unsteadiness of exchange, amongst other things, is most disconcerting, and the continued stringency of the money market, although for the purpose of re-assurance quoted nominally easier, is a very awkward problem to tackle at this particular period of the year. The home markets are also practically closed so far as this trade is concerned; but the cotton gamble still continues, the price for the usual standard of American having risen to 8.96d. in Liverpool, though it can hardly be spinners who are paying that for it! Even if the lowest estimates of the crop are realised there is nothing to justify such an advance to prices far beyond what the great majority of manufacturers could ever expect to work at profitably, and the following extract from the latest edition of Mr. Alfred B. Shepperson's "Cotton Facts," with regard to last season's crop, are more appropriate

than ever:—"It is very evident that the great advance in cotton caused serious losses to many cotton mills here and in Europe, and also grievous loss of wages to thousands of mill operatives from their enforced idleness on account of the very general resort to shorter working hours and the absolute closing of many mills. A comparatively few speculators secured large profits by the high prices, but the benefit to this small class seems entirely out of proportion to the serious interference with the cotton manufacturing industry here and in Europe, and the losses inflicted upon mill owners and operatives. The American cotton growers may be eliminated from the discussion, as they were benefited to so very insignificant an extent that, in the language of the street 'gamins' they may be said to have not 'been in it' The enormous amount of distress this causes amongst operatives in the cotton industry both in the United States and in Europe and India must draw the attention of those in authority, in the first named country, to the havoc that can be worked by a parcel of speculators, and the time cannot be far distant when the question of restricting this wholesale gambling to the detriment of the whole civilised world will have to occupy the serious consideration of the Legislature. Surely it is possible to enact laws that will restrain the few from tampering with such necessary commodities as cotton and wheat, and, like the trusts, from becoming a menace to the well being of the community at large. Such a course of procedure, unrestrained, will surely lead to revolution! The cotton and similar exchanges have become perfect gambling hells, and should be closed, or have their powers for conducting illegitimate transactions very considerably curtailed." The only goods that show an increase of any importance being T-cloths, Jeans and Turkey Reds, most of the others exhibiting a serious decline, especially American makes. The market here is certainly nominally strong; but at the same time there is an utter inability to do business. Some native holders are so anxious to realise, it is said, that good three-yard American sheetings are begging at about Tls. 3.95, to Tls. 4.00, while the replacing cost is at least Tls. 4.80, but no one has money (or confidence!) to buy them. That there is some faith in the future is shown by the advance in prices at the auctions this week, payment for which is deferred for a month. Meanwhile clearances are shockingly bad for shipment, but buyers can generally manage to find the money to take up their contracts when called upon. The yarn market is quiet but steady. There is more disposition to buy for clearance after the New Year holidays; but the increase in price offered has not been sufficient inducement for many holders to sell. Native cotton is strong and fair quantities are being taken, when dry enough, for shipment to Europe; but the supply in that condition is very small. The export of plain cottons from Manchester for January was 36,000,000 yards to Hongkong and China, and 500 bales yarn to Shanghai.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 12th February.

Beans	\$3 @ 3½
Borax	\$18
Camphor (China)	\$99
" (Formosa)	\$—
Cassia (First quality)	\$—
" (Second ")	\$—
" Oil	\$160 @ 165
Cloves	\$7 @ 39
Fennel Seed Oil	\$315
Galangle	\$5½
Garlic	\$—
Glue	\$29
Grapes	\$19
Ivory	\$350 @ 775
Kismiss	\$18
Olibanum	\$7 @ 27
Rosa Oil	\$65 @ 175
Saltpetre	\$10 @ 10½
Sandal wood	\$28
" Oil	\$350 @ 400
Senna Leaves	\$1 @ 6
Sugar Candy	\$9 @ 10
Vermillion	\$88
Wax	\$49

MISCELLEOUS EXPORTS.

Per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, sailed on 9th February. For Marseilles:—222 bales raw silk, 106 bales waste silk, 16 packages silks, 80 packages human hair, 106 packages tea, 500 cases cassia, 13 packages sundries, 17 packages cigars, etc. For Milan:—57 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—415 bales raw silk.

HANKOW, 3rd February. — The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected (Winter cargo) Tls	33.25
Do. seconds	28.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour)	59.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each)	10.20
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	12.00
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	11.80
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	11.70
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow)	11.20
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchew and/or Macheng)	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu)	9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	13.00
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts (usual shape)	19.00
Do. (Plum) do.	20.00
Tobacco, Tinchow	118.00
Black Bristles	19.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck)	3.50
Turmeric	4.20
Sesamum Seed	7.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	8.00
Wood Oil	9.00
Tea Oil	

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th February, 1904. — The outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan, and the recent advance in sterling exchange, has diverted attention to a considerable extent from stocks and shares during the past week, and there is but little fresh business of interest to report.

BANKS. — Hongkong and Shanghai sold in the early part of the week at \$64½, but are now procurable at \$64. London has receded to £61. Nationals continue in request at \$33.

MARINE INSURANCES. — Unions continue quiet at \$490, sellers. China Traders have declined to \$55 at which rate shares are on offer. North Chinas, Canton, and Yangtszes are all unchanged and without business locally.

FIRE INSURANCES. — Hongkongs have sold and are in further request at \$305. Chinas are unaltered with small sellers at \$92.

SHIPPING. — Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have been placed at \$30½ and \$30 cum dividend, and now procurable at \$28½ on the final dividend of \$1½ per share for 1903 paid on the 8th instant. Indo-Chinas after advancing to \$85 are somewhat easier with probable sellers at \$84. China and Manilas after advancing to \$25½ are now obtainable at \$25. Douglases have sold and have further sellers at \$35. Star Ferries are unchanged at \$30 and \$19 with sellers of old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports are slightly firmer with sales at \$21½ and probable sellers at the rate.

REFINERIES. — China Sugars, after sales at \$105 and \$106, are in further request at the latter rate. Luzons unaltered at \$10 sellers.

MINING. — No business has transpired, and quotations are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS. — Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled easier with sales at \$208 and \$207, closing with sellers at \$207. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are in strong demand at \$95. New Amoy Docks have receded to \$37½. Farnhams have been booked locally at Tls. 129½, and close steady and probable buyers at Tls. 130.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS. — Hongkong Lands continue quiet with sellers at \$150. Kowloon Lands and West Points are unchanged and without business. Humphrey's Estates have sold at \$10.60 ex the dividend of 90 cents per share for 1903 paid on the 11th instant, and more shares are procurable. Shanghai Lands are steady at Tls. 112. Hongkong Hotels are quiet with small sellers at \$146.

COTTON MILLS. — No local business has come to our notice. Shanghai reports a decline in Laon Kung Mows to Tls. 32½ sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS. — Green Island Cements are on offer at \$25½. China Borneos continue in request at \$8½. Watsons are easier with sellers at \$14½. Itopes are quiet at \$135 ex the dividend of \$10 per share for 1903 paid on the 8th instant. Ices are procurable at \$2.8 ex the final dividend of \$12 per share for 1903 paid yesterday. Tebraus are in the market at \$1½.

China Providents have sold and have further sellers at \$9. Watkins have sold at \$7½, and Powells at \$9½.

MEMOS. — Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 20th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 2nd instant. Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 5th March — transfer books close from the 20th instant to 5th March, both days inclusive. China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 10th March — transfer books close from the 25th instant to 10th proximo, inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks —		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$640, sellers
Natl. Bank of China		£61, L'don.
A. Shares	28	\$33, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$33, buyers
Four. Shares	21	\$10
Insurance —		
Union	\$100	\$490, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$55, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 67
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$305, sales & buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, sellers
Steamship Coys. —		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$28½, ex div., sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$84, sellers
China and Manila	\$50	\$25, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	21s. sellers
Do. pref. shares	210	210, nominal
Refineries		
China Sugar	\$100	\$106, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining —		
Panjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Ranbs	18. 10d.	\$6, sellers
Docks, Etc. —		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$207, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$95, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37½, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 113, sellers
Land and Building —		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$150, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35½, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$14½, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10.60, ex div.
S'hai Land Inv. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 112
Cotton Mills —		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170
Hongkong	\$10	\$15½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$25½, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$8½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$135, ex div.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$51, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$228, ex div., sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$15½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1½, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7½, sales
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$5
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Canton, Hongkong Ice & Cigar Companies	\$10	\$10, nominal
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$200
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

STOCKS & SHARES

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report dated 6th February state:—Business since the January Settlement has been very dull and the transactions small in the number of shares. We have to note an increase in the price of Indo-Chinas, which at closing are firm at Tls. 55 for cash, also a decided firming in the price of Langkats which have risen to Tls. 305 for cash. We expect our markets will remain quite during the remainder of this month, as the Chinese New Year falls on the 16th inst., and the natives are doing practically no business at present in these shares in anticipation of this festival. The rate on London to-day is TT. 2/6½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. No business reported. The quotation in Hongkong is nominal at \$645. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos opened on the 29th with sales for cash at Tls. 52, and for April at Tls. 54. The cash rate strengthens to Tls. 52½, 53½ and yesterday 55, with sales at 53½ and 52½. 54, 55, 55½ and 56 for March. A transaction for April was reported on the 29th at Tls. 54 and on the 3rd instant at Tls. 56. There are buyers at 56 and possibly a trifle over. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Preference shares have been placed at Tls. 43 and 43½ and Ordinaries at 46 for cash, and 53½ for June. There are buyers at 56 for ord. shares. Docks and Wharves.—Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. The market has remained very steady during the week with cash sales at 126; for March 121 and 130, and at 130 and 121. The market rate closes at the latter price with sellers. April shares were placed on the 29th at 129, on the 30th at 131 and 132, weakening on the 1st to sales again at 131, with sales later at 130. Sellers for April at the last rate. S. & H. Wharves. A quotation is reported at Tls. 198½ February. There are buyers at this rate. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—The only transaction reported is in Kaipings at Tls. 6.30. Cash shares at this rate are wanted. Lands.—Shanghais have been placed at Tls. 112. Industrial.—In Cotton Stocks no business reported. Shanghai Paper and Pulps have been placed at Tls. 116 cash and 115 for March. Ices at Tls. 15. China Flours at Tls. 76 c.n.i. Shanghai Gas. Owing to the report of the probability of the Company issuing one new share in respect of every two old shares held at a premium of Tls. 25 per share, the market firmed, resulting in business at Tls. 122½ for cash. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. The market opened on the 29th with sales at Tls. 292½ and 290 for cash; 305, 302½ and 300 March. On the 30th 292½ cash. On the 1st, 305 March; 2nd, at 295 Cash, 305 March and 312½ April; 3rd at 297½ cash; 4th at 297½ and 300 cash. The market closes very firm with buyers for cash and forward up to the end of June at an advance of Tls. 5 per month on the cash price. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 52. Stores & Hotels.—Weeks have been placed at \$19, Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 14, and Astors at \$26½. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 66. Loans.—No transactions have taken in place Debentures.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 12th February.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	243½
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ON GERMANY.—

Credits 4 months' sight	247
On demand	198

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	142½
Bank, on demand	143

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	142½
Bank, on demand	143

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	70½
Private, 30 days' sight	71½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	95½
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	nominal
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	nominal
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	116½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	1½ p.p.m.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	1 p.p.m.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	63
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

	\$10
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GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

	55.50
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BAR SILVER, per oz.

	nil
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TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Freights coastwise continue to improve and a large amount of business has been transacted. From Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents last; to one port Philippines, 38 cents and 40 cents per picul have been paid for small carriers and more tonnage is wanted; to Japan, 37 cents offering for March shipment. From Java to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul. Coal freights are firm. From Moji to this, \$2.30; to Singapore, \$2.35; to Manila, \$3.40; to Swatow, \$2.50 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Baron Balfour—British steamer, 2,552 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.35 per ton.
Amara—British steamer, 1,586 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Ascol—British steamer, 2,786 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.
Goodwin—British steamer, 2,832 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.25 per ton.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Lugano—German steamer, 2,963 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.20 per ton.
Tyr—Norwegian steamer, 1,417 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$2.50 per ton.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, hence to Kobe, 15 cents per picul.
Undine—Norwegian steamer, 1,017 tons, hence to Kobe, 20 cents per picul.
Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, hence to Kobe, 20 cents per picul.
Tyr—Norwegian steamer, 1,417 tons, hence to Kobe, 20 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Babeloberg—German steamer, 1,379 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Fausan—Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Taichong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.
Victoria—Swedish steamer, 989 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.
Emm Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 994 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.
Laertes—British steamer, 1,511 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Chowshan—British steamer, 1,282 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Elq—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 38 cents per picul.
Karin—Swedish steamer, 698 tons, Saigon to one or two ports Philippines, 40 cents and 44 cents (part cargo).
Triumph—German steamer, 769 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, at \$5,000 per month.
Pionier—German steamer, 975 tons, monthly, 4 months, at \$5,500 per month.
Heinrich Menzell—German steamer, 1,002 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$5,900 per month.
Nanyang—German steamer, 1,084 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$5,400 per month.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$5,500 per month.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$6,500 per month.
M. Struve—German steamer, 986 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$6,500 per month.
Prometheus—Norwegian steamer, 1,023 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$6,750 per month.
Lydia—German steamer, 1,772 tons, monthly, at \$11,000 per month.
Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$4,500 per month.
Karin—Swedish steamer, 698 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$5,000 per month.
etartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$8,000 per month.
Tritos—German steamer, 1,083 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$6,500 per month.
Vorwarts—German steamer, 643 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$5,750 per month.
Knivsberg—German steamer, 646 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$5,750 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—

ARRIVALS.

7, Canton, British str., from Chinkiang.
 7, Hsinchi, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

7, M. Struve, German str., from Haiphong.
 8, Aleia, German str., from Shanghai.
 8, Andalusia, German str., from Hamburg.
 8, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 8, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 8, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 8, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 9, Aspern, Austrian cruiser, from Canton.
 9, Australien, French str., from Marseilles.
 9, Bamberg, German str., from Hamburg.
 9, Catherine Apenar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 9, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 9, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 9, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 9, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 9, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 9, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 9, Simongau, Dutch str., from Samarang.
 9, Undine, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 9, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 10, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 10, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 10, Machaw, German str., from Bangkok.
 10, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, Waishing, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, Crusader, British str., from Moji.
 11, Hsinchi, Chinese str., from Canton.
 11, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from London.
 11, Indrapura, British str., from Portland.
 11, Lagaspi, American str., from Manila.
 11, Loongmoon, German str., from Chinkiang.
 11, Prins Valdemar, Danish str., from Moji.
 11, Progress, German str., from Tournon.
 11, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Yokohama.
 11, Tsinan, British str., from Kutchinorzu.

DEPARTURES.

8, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 8, Albion, British battleship, for practice.
 8, Avoca, British str., for Amoy.
 8, Borueo, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Takao.
 8, Hansa, German str., for Singapore.
 8, Hsinchi, Chinese str., for Canton.
 8, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Amoy.
 8, Vengeance, British battleship, for practice.
 8, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 9, Babelsberg, German str., for Saigon.
 9, Bangloa, British str., for Yokohama.
 9, Benedi, British str., for Rangoon.
 9, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 9, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
 9, Germanicus, Ger. str., for Diamond Island.
 9, Hailong, British str., for Tamsui.
 9, Hongwan, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Hounslow, British str., for Sourabaya.
 9, Kennebec, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Kwangse, British str., for Ni-gpo.
 9, Merionethshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Murex, British str., for Kotei.
 9, Radnorshire, British str., for London.
 9, Tun-shing, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Alesia, German str., for Hamburg.
 10, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.
 10, Empress of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 10, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Haimun, British str., for Japan.
 10, Kansu, British str., for Manila.
 10, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, Lothian, British str., for Portland.
 10, Nestor, British str., for London.
 10, Palgrave, British str., for Sydney.
 10, Tayabas, British str., for Manila.
 10, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 10, Wuehang, British str., for Cebu.
 11, Andalusia, German str., for Yokohama.
 11, Bamberg, German str., for Shanghai.
 11, Changshu, British str., for Yokohama.
 11, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
 11, Perla, British str., for Manila.
 11, Phu Yen, French str., for Saigon.
 11, Undine, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 11, Taishun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, Waishing, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Seydlitz*, for Hongkong, from Bremen. Mr. Oscar Bruder; from Southampton, Messrs. E. C. Wilks and family and H. McFarland; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. G. Errington, Miss Broches, Messrs. Staube, Rud. Leiner, and A. Raucholtz; from Naples, Mr. Kurt Wibel and Capt. Alfr. Fich; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. von Francois, and Mr. Jul. A. Amshel; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lohmeyer, Major

Baker Brown, Messrs. G. Marshall, W. S. Allan, C. H. Dodd, G. Davies, Ohno, H. Araguchit, and A. J. Weatherhead; for Shanghai, from Bremen, Mr. Richard Hess, from Antwerp, Mr. A. Reinhardt; from Southampton, Mrs. Tuebben and child, Messrs. H. Marshall, J. Barber, Alex. Malcolm, H. G. Craig and family, and Philipp Li der and family; from Suez, Mr. H. David; from Genoa, Mrs. Fische, Mrs. Bloch and children, Messrs. Finninger, C. Krovh, E. von Schuehen, and G. Carignano; from Colombo, Mr. Robert Cordes; for Nagasaki, from Penang, Mrs. Yamata Otasi, Mrs. Ohase, and Mr. Chonda; for Kobe, from Genoa, Mr. Georg Hamel; from Singapore, Mr. Paul Th. Tietzker; for Yokohama, from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. Lee; from Genoa, Mr. J. A. Havmassen; from Naples, Mr. Tsugarn; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hampe, and Capt. R. C. King.

Per *Changsha*, from Australia, Mrs. and Miss Lee, Mrs. McCreary and child, Mrs. Whitehead, Mr. and Mrs. Yates, Misses Bray, M. Cashman, and Farrell, Messrs. J. Bray, F. Banes-Hewitt, S. Newsham, W. Lory, Judge Limberger, F. Nash, E. Hopkinson, H. Hiser, H. Tolmer, H. Porter, P. Sagnol, and D. D. Taylor.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Lieut. H. G. Leopold, Messrs. J. P. H. Giri, Zakagi, Fukui, Ito, and Guidote; from Kobe, Mr. Midzushima; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart Lockhart and infant, Mrs. W. Allanson and two children, Mrs. A. J. d'Almeida and infant, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Pettican, Lieut. Raaz, Messrs. J. M. d'Almeida, C. C. dos Remedios, Meurer, W. E. Kent, L. Boutinon, J. Hunt, H. Knox, M. Zacker, E. Fornoni, Antonio M. Ferras, R. Las, M. Muir, D. Negris, and Palinos; for Saigon, from Kobe, Mr. Katayama; from Shanghai, Mrs. Douro and Mr. Peterson; for Batavia, from Shanghai, Mrs. Gallet; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. Nakagawa; from Kobe, Mrs. Mitutami, Miss Iketami, Mrs. Tsuruyami, and Mr. Yao; from Shanghai, Mrs. R. Fencik, Mrs. Nocomoso Suje, Mrs. Nocomoso Teyo, Messrs. J. Moosa, Basaarvat, and Nocomoso Yose; for Colombo, from Shanghai, Mr. G. Stapura; for Port Said, from Kobe, Mr. Tabbats; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Tracey and infant, and Mr. Sabatie; from Kobe, Messrs. Fevre, G. Strathford, Rowlands, Burns, Nagasse, McDonald, J. Hodder, McDonald, Smith, Parkinson, Andres, Underwood, Maun, Leavy, Wezatt, Robertson, McAllister, H. Lang, M. Lean, Murray, Parker, McKay, Anderson, Cooper, and Brown; from Shanghai, Messrs. Paul Jourdan, A. Gonnand, Deleslaing, Campbell, Muller, Torfa, Holtz, Outrequin, Hubert, and Kelly.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Morel, Rev. Father Beliere, Capt. Mathieu, Messrs. Cardos, Richard Summers, d'Abbadie, and Fihpecki; from ports of call, Mr. and Mrs. Gause and infant, Mrs. Tillier, Mr. and Mrs. Duulop, Mrs. Wiecking, Misses Spring and Murray, Messrs. Ph. Ziadi, W. A. Dawley, de Knobloch, Chye Knupp, Dessolier, Warwick, and Peter Duthewick; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Dr. H. Fresson, Rev. Fathers Dautas, Bourgain, and Ch. Bonillet, Messrs. F. A. M. Castle and Pico; from ports of call, Messrs. Bloch and Kalouter; for Japan, from Marseilles, Messrs. Enrique Serra, Garriga Moner, Quehara, and Aryoski; from ports of call, Messrs. R. H. Baker, J. H. Bonford, and R. Rocouly.

DEPARTED.

Per *Seydlitz*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. S. Ozorio, Mrs. Tamwa, Mr. and Mrs. Witkowski, Mrs. Abbot, Mr. and Mrs. Menzies, Mrs. L. A. Musso, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Musso, Misses A. Weatherstone, J. O'Brien Butler, and A. M. Meyers, Messrs. T. Gutierrez, H. E. Lind, Hagedorn, Morris, J. Wellbrook, Paul Kohn, H. McFarland, C. Reim, Kesby, Fostithe, Heinz, J. Mathan, and H. Freermann.

Per *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, &c., Mrs. M. Onslow, Mrs. N. Harn, Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Dunlop, Misses W. Foster, Dean, Cooke, and M. Cashman, Capt. Fitzcham, Messrs. W. Sharples, Geo. J. Hawkins, Douglas Storey, John A. Moller, Y. Yasumoto, Galistann, David, Jno. S. Gillies, and W. T. McLaughlin.

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